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Local duo pen history of former naval station

Jean and Frank Brunton with their message from the Queen

Royal message for platinum couple

A COUPLE from Parbold have received a special message from the Queen after reaching a very special milestone.

Jean and Frank Brunton, from Burnside, are celebrating their platinum wedding anniversary to mark 70 years of marriage.

The pair, both aged 91, married in their home city, Nottingham, in 1947. They moved to Ormskirk in the 1960s and then in the 1970s to Parbold, where they have lived ever since.

To mark their anniversary they enjoyed a quiet celebratory meal with family and friends at a friend's home.

Before retirement Frank worked on the railways while Jean was an office worker.

Their friend Chris Burdett, who has known the couple since he and Frank started travelling to Liverpool FC matches together in 1975, told the Champion: "They are a wonderful couple and like second parents to me, they really are like family. It was wonderful to celebrate this very special occasion with them."

MP ACCUSES VIRGIN OF PROVIDING 'CUT-PRICE' CARE

Report by **Henry James**

...but company says it is continuing to deliver same level of services

ROSIE Cooper has accused Virgin Care of providing what she called "cut-price medicine" since being awarded the contract to provide health services in the borough.

However the company say they "continue to deliver the same level of services" and have offered to investigate any concerns raised by residents.

Following a number of complaints from constituents the West Lancs MP has tackled Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt on issues surrounding Virgin's current service and delivery within the borough.

She said: "What advice would the Secretary of State give to my constituents who receive their urgent care from Virgin Care and are told that wounds should be dressed only once and that, in the event that they need to re-attend, they should purchase further dressings from the local chemist?

"When this £65 million contract was awarded last year to Virgin Care, it was done so behind closed doors and kept health care professionals and residents in the dark. The response I gave then to my constituents was, if these services fail you, let me know. That is exactly what they have done.

"Other constituents have complained that services are being moved, others mentioned having been told that the blood test HbA1c is now only being done once a year for each patient.

"Patients have been concerned about diabetic and other services being moved and their access to those services. What is the consultation process?

"The Ormskirk Urgent Care Centre hours were reduced from 8am to 10pm before Christmas as it was said there were staffing difficulties. Everyone expected it to revert to the original hours when staffing was sorted. Instead, since the contract was awarded to Virgin, its opening hours have reduced further to 8pm.

"West Lancashire CCG and Virgin Care promised us that patients would receive quality treatment and care but the reality has been starkly different. This isn't what the CCG promised, it is cut-price medicine which doesn't fit the bill.

A spokesperson for Virgin Care commented: "We responded to Ms Cooper last month alongside our commissioners to reassure her we continue to deliver the same level of services and to confirm there has been no occasion where a GP has not been on site at Ormskirk UCC. We also asked for more details around specific cases so that we can investigate any concerns her constituents have raised and resolve them quickly."

And a spokesperson from the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: "Since starting to deliver community health service and urgent care services on May 1, Virgin Care has received one patient complaint. If any patients have any experiences to share, please contact the CCG or Virgin Care directly.

"The walk-in centre hours in Ormskirk as provided by Virgin Care are from 8am to 8pm (with patients who have arrived before 8pm being seen up to 8.30pm) seven days a week with GP and nurse appointments available at all times. The previous provider reduced these hours due to HR issues last autumn.

"The HbA1c blood test is offered as it always has been. Wound care also remains the same as previously offered. We have asked the MP for the patient details relating to these two issues she raises and still await them so we can look into this."

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Council seeking public's views on sex shops in the borough!

Consultation launched on authority's review of licensing policy

WEST Lancs Council is holding a public consultation on a review of its policy for the licensing of sex establishments.

A national licensing scheme has been created for applications to set up establishments including sex shops, sex cinemas and lap dancing bars.

Although legislation has responded to a changing society, where the public representation of sex has become more prevalent through advertising and popular culture, the council believes this may also cause concern to many members of the public.

And although the authority is not under an obligation to publish a policy for sex establishment licensing, it is felt that by publishing such a document, the council can clearly state the needs of its own area and dictate the requirements for licensed operations.

Concerns

Accordingly, the revised policy describes how any application would be considered and determined, but it is largely unchanged from the current version.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for health and community safety, said: "Parliament has made it lawful to operate a sex establishment. It is appropriate the council sets out its objectives and the means through which application processes can address potential concerns.

"We do not intend to change our policy from that currently in place, but it is important that we review and consult the content of policy to ensure that it continues to reflect current opinion."

The draft policy is open for comment until September 29.

All comments are welcome and will be submitted to full council for determination before the final version of the policy is approved.

To read the draft policy and find out how you can give your views, visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/yourviews and click on consultations underway.

Comments can also be made by emailing: licensing.enquiries@westlancs.gov.uk or by post to: West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Service, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 8EE.

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County council to discuss plans for extra £5.6m funding to improve road surfaces

Report by **Kenny Parker**

LANCASHIRE County Council's cabinet will meet tomorrow (Thursday, August 10) to consider proposals for how an extra £5.6m will be used to improve road surfaces, help prevent flooding and ensure public areas look neat and tidy.

The council's new administration has committed to boost funding for highways to prevent potholes, and increase drain cleaning, grass cutting and maintenance of roadside verges and planted beds.

County Councillor Keith Iddon, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "Lancashire's roads are vital to our economy, ensuring people and goods can travel efficiently, and it's essential that we prioritise funding accordingly to keep them in good condition.

"Keeping up public areas is important to everyone's sense of pride, as well as ensuring visitors and potential investors get a good impression of Lancashire.

"Reducing flood risk and increasing our resilience to flooding has become an increasing priority following weather events over recent years, and we're also investing more to ensure our road drains are well-maintained and ready to carry surface water away."

A report to the cabinet outlines proposed criteria to allocate the extra funding, which was previously approved as part of the council's revised budget for 2017/18.

It includes:

• £3m for planned highways maintenance. The first phase of the council's 15-year strategy to improve the overall condition of highways has focused investment on improving the main A, B and C roads, ensuring they have fewer potholes and will cost less to maintain in future.

A report for the county council cabinet proposes spending an extra £1m on preventing potholes on the county's roads

This new funding is proposed to help improve residential roads which have received less investment in recent years.

• £1m to ensure the council can respond more quickly to make timely minor repairs where needed rather than wait until a road needs more major maintenance.

• £1m to prevent potholes appearing by ensuring that running repairs extend to cover other damage in the immediate area, reducing the need for repeat visits.

• £300,000 to reduce flood risk by increasing the council's ability to respond quickly to clear blocked drains and pipes without interrupting the day-to-day regular maintenance programme. It is also proposed to introduce regular maintenance of trash screens which help to keep culverted water courses free of debris.

• £330,000 to increase grass cutting from two to four cuts a year on verges alongside high-speed roads, and increase from five to eight cuts a year in other public areas maintained by the council. Regular spraying will also help to keep down weeds, and there will be more maintenance of certain planted beds and borders in city and town centres.

Post Office company secretary, Alwen Lyons and West Lancs Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr. Noel Delaney and Ann Stubbert, are pictured with Paul O'Brien (centre) from the Royal Mail delivery office and postmen David Wood and Duncan Savage at dedication ceremony.

Silent tribute to mark re-dedication ceremony for Post Office memorial

A TWO-minute silence was held during a short ceremony to re-dedicate a post office war memorial now situated at the main delivery office.

West Lancs Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Noel Delaney and Ann Stubbert, attended the special ceremony at the Royal Mail Delivery Office in New Court Way, Ormksirk, to re-dedicate the war memorial that was formerly situated at Aughton Street Post Office.

Post Office company secretary, Alwen Lyons, gave a talk explaining the reason for the occasion and talked about the brave post office workers named on the plaque.

The six - John Joseph Arkwright, James Stock Barton, John Brownbill, William Dowdall, Robert Francis Rogers and John Watkinson - died while serving in the First World War.

There followed a two-minute silence and laying of a wreath, before readings of *For the Fallen*, the Rupert Brooke poem, *The Solider* and a poem entitled *Remembrance*.

Health trust praised for 'exceptional improvement'

HEALTH Secretary Jeremy Hunt has congratulated staff at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust for their 'exceptional improvement.'

He praised the trust for being the most improved in England between January and March for getting patients home from hospital, and said it was a 'real example to others.'

Karen Jackson

The ringing endorsement from the Health Secretary is welcome news for local health chiefs after the trust was mired in controversy over the long-running and costly suspension of four senior managers in 2015 following whistle-blowing complaints.

The investigation took more than two years to conclude and is believed to have cost the trust almost £2.5m. Chief executive Jonathan Parry was subsequently sacked from his position - a decision he said he would challenge in the High Court.

But there was good news for the trust this week by way of a letter from Mr Hunt, who said: "The trust is a real example to others, demonstrating how to improve performance in a short space of time and ensure that your patients get the care they deserve.

"From visiting organisations throughout the country, I know that the immense amount of work that will have been behind this outcome cannot be underestimated.

"Improvement on such a scale is very impressive and testament to the hard work and dedication of the trust's staff."

The trust's interim chief executive, Karen Jackson, said: "I am delighted the enormous efforts staff are making to give patients the very best care is now being recognised at a national level.

"They are a fantastic team and a privilege to work with."

Woman, 79, airlifted to hospital after two-car collision

A 79-YEAR-old woman was airlifted to hospital following a serious road traffic accident on Jacksmere Lane, Scarisbrick.

The two-car collision, which also led to a 70-year old man being taken to Southport and Formby Hospital with leg injuries and back pain, happened just before 4.30pm on Sunday, August 6.

Emergency services were deployed to the scene including ambulance, air ambulance, police and fire services, with engines dispatched from Ormskirk and Merseyside.

A spokesperson for West Lancs Fire and Rescue Service said that firefighters were needed to cut the man free from a vehicle and were at the scene for approximately one hour.

A spokesperson for North West Ambulance Service: "An elderly female patient was airlifted to Aintree Hospital with major trauma injures. She had a number of injuries and was quite badly hurt.

"A second patient was taken by land ambulance to Southport and Formby Hospital with a cut to his leg and back pain."

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OWL and council in row over savings proposals

Report by **Kenny Parker**

MEMBERS of the Our West Lancashire (OWL) independents group are urging the public to respond to the council's consultation on efficiency savings by rejecting proposals which they claim will reduce the borough's grass cutting and street cleaning budget by a further £150,000.

And they have again called for councillor allowances to be reduced to the Lancashire average - saving more than £75,000 a year, they say - and to look at cutting the number of councillors in the borough.

However, council leader Councillor Ian Moran said the authority wasn't looking to reduce its ground maintenance service and accused OWL of seeking to 'mislead the public'.

OWL councillor for Derby ward, Ian Davis, said: "I am urging residents to reject the council's plans to reduce the levels of grass cutting even further. The standard of grass cutting is already not good enough. We even have residents of our sheltered housing having to pay extra to get gardeners in because the council haven't cut the grass for months and now the council want to reduce the service still further."

Councillor Ian Davis

Councillor Ian Moran

Fellow councillor Adrian Owens added: "When this consultation proposal was voted through by Labour councillors it was made clear that service levels would be affected. I've already had confirmed that the number of grass cuts has been reduced and I've witnessed tenants having to cut overgrown grass on housing land."

In response, a council spokesperson said: "West Lancashire Borough Council is inviting people to give views on proposals for savings, efficiencies and increases in income totalling £310,000 to tackle a budget gap in 2018/19 of about £1.9m.

"One proposal is a review of the way the council carries out street cleaning and grounds maintenance, to help maximise any efficiencies and produce a set of core service standards, based on need for the borough. This will help the council focus its limited resources on issues that matter the most and benefit the majority of residents.

"The responsibility for the maintenance of grassed areas adjacent to highway verges and major roads lies with Lancashire County Council, but the borough council continues to maintain the land it owns.

"There are some Crosshall Court residents who have put their own bedding plants in the small patch of garden directly outside their homes and who cut their own small patch of grass. The communal grassed areas are cut by the council. The grass cutting season starts in April and the grass has been cut at Crosshall Court six times since then."

And Councillor Moran commented: "At no point in this consultation process has the council said it is looking to reduce the service it provides in ground maintenance. In fact, the exact opposite is true.

"Residents have rightly been angered by the highways maintenance that has been delivered so badly since Lancashire County Council awarded the contract to a third party contractor last year. We are working to bring this back to WLBC in future so that we can return to the higher standards that were being met when West Lancs delivered the service.

"But this is separate from grounds maintenance and it is shameful that Our West Lancashire are trying to blur the lines between who is responsible for these services, rather than having any constructive debate about how we deliver non-statutory services against a £2 million cut in council funding.

"Finally, if Councillor Owens is so concerned about councillor allowances, why did he do nothing about this when he was the Conservative deputy leader and finance portfolio holder? We have frozen allowances for the last seven years and will continue to do so until the next independent review in two years time."

Residents can find the full list of proposals in the consultation and give their views at www.westlancs.gov.uk/yourviews.

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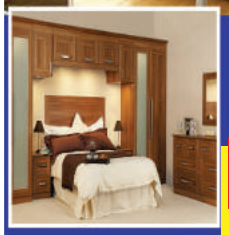

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Local historians team up to capture history of former Royal Naval air station

TWO Local historians have teamed up to produce a booklet aimed at giving an insight into the history of the former HMS Ringtail at Burscough.

Entitled *From Ringtail to Retail,* the publication, by Lawrence Critchley and Mike Dawson, aims to tell the story of the former Royal Naval Air Station and of the monument that was dedicated to those who served there during the Second World War.

The site is now occupied by an industrial estate and retail park, but thanks to the efforts of the pair - both members of the 'Images of Burscough and Surrounding Areas' local history group - its vital role has been recorded for future generations.

Lawrence said: "In recent years the monument was moved to its present location in a new memorial garden with the addition of a unique life-size sculpture of a naval airman.

"The Ringtail Retail Park takes its name from the air station and Booths supermarket has been designed to resemble a Second World War hangar.

"HMS Ringtail is now one of the most researched naval air stations in the country and an important addition to the wartime history of Lancashire."

The booklet also contains a number of stories from those who served at Burscough, along with a selection of old photographs.

It costs £6 and is available to buy directly from Michael Dawson either by phone on 01704 894097 (evenings/weekends), or if you prefer it to be posted out, send a cheque for £8 (includes postage) to Michael Dawson, 54 The Quays, Burscough, L40 5TW.

Lawrence Critchley and Mike Dawson pictured at the memorial with a copy of their booklet

Deadline looming for entries to Bloomin Burscough competition

ORGANISERS of the Bloomin Burscough Garden Competition are reminding residents that there is still time to enter - but you'll need to be quick as judging will take place on Monday, August 14!

Categories are for the best front garden and the best hanging baskets/planters, which must be visible from the road as judges do not enter the garden.

There are first and second prizes for each of £100 and £50 respectively, plus trophies.

Residents can download entry forms from the website www.burscoughpc.co.uk or collect them from the parish council office in Martland Mill.

Also, for the first time this year there is a prize for the best business landscaping or floral display. Anyone can nominate a business and there will be a cup for the winner.

Glenn all set to tackle 'four-midable' challenge

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A BANKER from Burscough is aiming to make a sizeable deposit towards a mental health charity's fundraising target by tackling a gruelling four-day mental and physical challenge.

Glenn Bemment, a regional director for the Lloyds Banking Group, will be joining more than 60 of his colleagues to take on the Mental Health UK Fourtitude Challenge which aims to raise £250,000.

Over four days, from Monday to Thursday, September 4 to 7, the group will face a mental agility challenge to test their resolve, hike the 978 metres of Scaffell Pike, cycle 100 miles across hilly Peak District roads, and complete a half-marathon along Birmingham canal paths.

The challenge was named to reflect the fact that one in four people experience mental health problems; it will take place over four days; and there will be four teams competing, one from each of the home nations.

The event is part of the Lloyds group's two-year partnership with Mental Health UK, which aims to promote awareness of the link between mental health and money problems and raise at least £2million each year to launch a Mental Health and Money Advice Service.

Banker Glenn Bemment who is tackling a four-day charity challenge in aid of Mental Health UK

Glenn, who has twice completed the London Marathon, said: "I enjoy pushing myself and I am always on the lookout for a challenge such as this, which combines a physically tough challenge with a good cause.

"The challenge will be tough but having the motivation of taking part for Mental Health UK and my colleagues supporting me will keep me going."

Fiona Cannon, responsible business and inclusion director for Lloyds Banking Group, said: "It's great to see so many colleagues taking part in the Fourtitude Challenge and I wish them the best of luck on what I know will be a tough physical and mental challenge.

"Our colleagues have a great track record of raising significant funds for charity and are extremely motivated to exceed our target of £250,000 for our charity partner, Mental Health UK."

And Brian Dow, managing director of Mental Health UK, added: "The partnership has already produced some fantastic work and initiatives, and this incredibly tough challenge is certainly no exception.

"On behalf of Mental Health UK, I want to say a huge thank-you to all involved."

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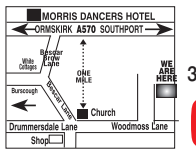

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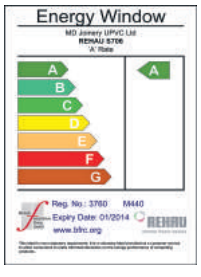

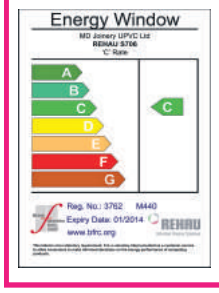

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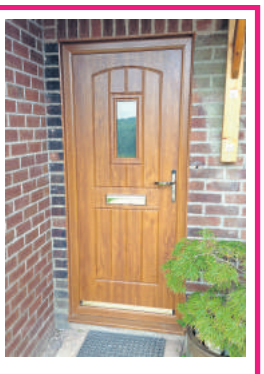

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Ukulele festival 'a resounding success'

POTENTIAL traffic problems and forecast thunderstorms couldn't blow the second Parbulele Ukulele Festival off course as organisers hailed the three-day event 'a resounding success'.

Following last year's initial staging, this year's festival held from Friday to Sunday, August 4 to 6, proved even bigger and better.

Organiser, Gary Smith said feedback had all been very positive and despite what could have been major setbacks – the M6 was closed for a large part of Saturday and the weather forecast was for thunderstorms on Sunday afternoon - he was pleased with the numbers that attended.

He said: "This year emphasised that whilst this is first and foremost a ukulele event for the wider ukulele community, it is also very much an event that belongs to Parbold and neighbouring villages.

"This was borne out by the debut performance of Parbold Junior Strummers, our very own junior ukulele band, who opened on both Saturday and Sunday put on a fine show.

"This year we also unveiled Mr Parbulele, designed by the pupils of six local schools, with Esme Beesley being the eventual winner. Next year watch out for Mrs Parbulele!

"We also had boat cruises up and down the canal and introduced our very own ale, Mr Parbulele, brewed especially for us by Martland Brewery, while for the younger children there was a bouncy castle to keep them amused.

"There was an international line-up of artists performing at the two evening shows and the open mic stage at the music village was always busy; while the highlight for many will have been Mr Parbulele himself riding around the village visiting the pubs where ukulele bands were playing in a Model T Ford motor car kindly provided by Keith Rudd!

"We are already looking forward to Parbulele2018."

Arriving in style... Keith Rudd in his Model T Ford with ukulele players Kizzy Felstead and Peter Moss and compere Andrea Cooke

Mr Parbulele and members of the newly-formed Parbold Junior Strummers (PJs)

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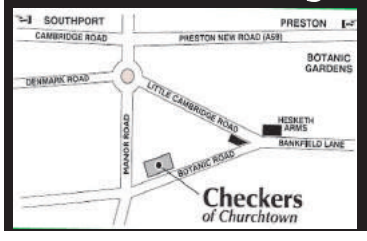

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Major redevelopment project proposed for Leisure Lakes complex

Report by **Kenny Parker**

FLOATING lodges, woodland and lakeside homes and more than 200 new static caravan pitches are among ambitious new plans for the Leisure Lakes complex submitted to West Lancs Council.

Plans have already been approved for an 18-hole golf course at the Mere Brow site, in addition to the existing nine-hole course, but the latest proposals reveal a major redevelopment project.

These include:

- The creation of 33 floating holiday homes on the fringes of the east lake.
- 107 woodland and lakeside holiday homes set around the east and west lakes.
- 225 static caravan pitches.
- Relocated golf driving range.
- Relocated clubhouse, shop and administrative facilities for all golf activities.
- A new central amenity building and site warden's accommodation (planning permission granted).
- Sustainable infrastructure works to include sustainable drainage measures, bio-disc and reed bed waste water treatment facilities and renewable energy generation.
- Creation of 24 hectares (59 acres) of new woodland, together with other extensive planting and environmental works to existing woodland areas.
- New structural landscaping to protect and enhance wildlife habitats, "placing ecology at the very heart of the site's transformation."

A public consultation was carried out earlier in the year but feedback was only received from three residents and United Utilities.

However, ecological impact reports, carried out by design and environmetal consultants, Urban Green, concluded that "habitat creation and other mitigation will, overall, deliver positive impacts for habitats and species."

The deadline for public responses to the planning application is Friday, August 25.

Andrew Watt, chartered planning & development surveyor of Maze Planning Solutions, which acted as advisor to Leisure Lakes, will be holding an informal drop-in session for local residents, and anyone else interested. The date and venue are yet to be fixed.

Plans for the new Leisure Lakes development include a range of new accommodation and golf facilities

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Comments sought on proposed changes to taxi licensing policy

IF you live or work in West Lancashire, the borough council wants to hear your views on changes to an important document relating to taxis operating in the area.

The council licences taxis and drivers to ensure public safety and and its standards for licensed vehicles and drivers are contained in its Taxi Licensing Policy.

However, while the policy was formally reviewed in 2016 and will last for five years, the council is seeking to make additional amendments to reflect recent changes in legislation and implement additional safety measures.

As a consequence the council wants to hear your views on the proposed changes to the policy and has started a public consultation which will run until October 31.

All comments received will be presented to the council's licensing and appeals committee for consideration.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for health and community safety said: "This is a very important policy for the council and we welcome the views of anyone living and working in West Lancashire, as well as the licensed trade. The council would particularly like to hear from people who use taxis regularly so that we can ensure our policy meets the needs of local people."

To read the draft policy and find out how you can give your views, visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/yourviews and click on consultations underway. Comments can also be made by emailing: licensing.enquiries@westlancs.gov.uk or by post to: WLBC, Licensing Service, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 8EE.

The police and local taxi companies and drivers have been contacted directly for their views.

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PC Gareth Olley at Merseyside Police HQ in Liverpool with fellow officers and some of the cyclists who joined him for part of the ride

PC's pedal-powered marathon set to raise £2,000 for Alder Hey

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A POLICE diver from Ormskirk swapped his scuba gear for a cycling crash helmet - again! - to ride more than 230 miles in a day and raise almost £2,000 for a children's hospital.

PC Gareth Olley works for the North West Police Underwater Search and Marine Unit which is based in Cheshire but is a collaboration between six police forces - Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire and North Wales - with officers seconded from each.

The 37-year-old, a keen cyclist and member of the Harry Middleton Cycle Club in Ormskirk, cycled to the headquarters of all six forces to raise money for Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool.

His ride started at Penrith in Cumbria, then on to Preston (Lancashire HQ) through Ormskirk to Liverpool and Manchester city centres (Merseyside & Greater Manchester HQs) with a brief stop at Alder Hey before heading down to Winsford (Cheshire HQ) and finishing off at Colwyn Bay in North Wales.

It was the father-of-two's second sponsored marathon cycle. In 2003, he was part of a team of five officers who rode in relay for their 'Cops Cycle for Kids' End to End challenge from Lands End to John O'Groats in 54 hours and five minutes to raise more than £6,000 for the Ronald McDonald House, a charity which provides free accommodation for the families of ill children being treated at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

He said: "The ride went really well, with me keeping just above my target speed and finishing with a ride time of 13hrs 10mins for the 231 miles. This made it just over 17hrs in total with the stops and delays.

"I had a great reception at each of the six force headquarters, along with a quick stop at the hospital for a photograph with the Alder Hey Children's Charity staff, and support from my family and friends along the route.

"I was joined along the route by a number of colleagues from Cumbria Constabulary, Greater Manchester Police and my own cycling club, Harry Middleton"s CC in Ormskirk. This company along the route kept my mind off the numbers in front of me on my computer and meant the miles ticked by much easier.

"My original fundraising target of £1,000 was reached the night before I started, and so I am now close to doubling this amount and reaching £2,000, which I'm so happy about.

"Having had a few days to recover, I'm pleased to say all the sore bits and muscles have recovered and I'm looking forward to getting back out on my bike - maybe not for quite as long though!

"I would like to say a massive thank-you to all the people who have either donated, rode with me both during my training and on the day, and the support I have had on the day - the money that has been raised will help make such a difference to such a worthy cause."

● To donate to Gareth's appeal, visit justgiving.com and search for Cops Cycle 4 Kids or text CC4K and the amount.

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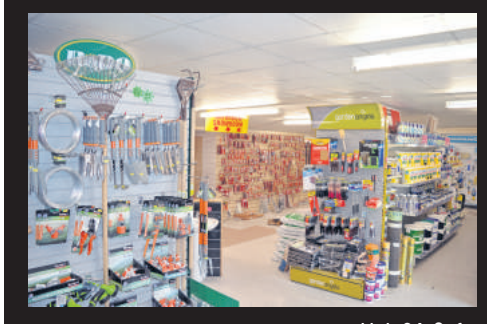

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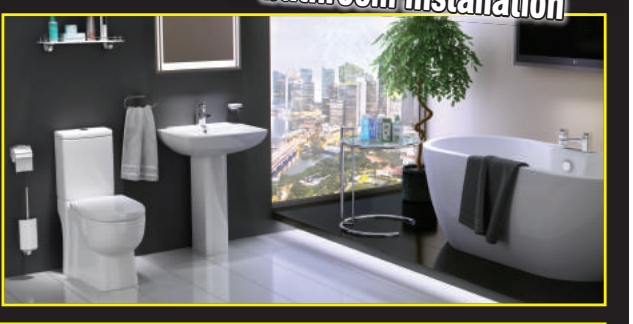

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Grants available for major adaptations needed to homes for health reasons

Residents can apply directly to council for help with disabled facilities costing more than £1,000

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire who need major adaptations to their homes for medical reasons can now apply directly to the borough council for funding.

Disabled facilities grants are available for major adaptations that would normally cost more than £1,000, such as level access showers, stairlifts and ramps.

An occupational therapist will assess each request for assistance to determine the adaptations that are required.

Smaller adaptations or equipment, such as handrails and bath seats, are provided by Lancashire County Council who can be contacted on 0300 123 6720.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for health, said: "These grants can make a big difference to the lives of disabled people and their families. If you have a disability and need a major adaptation to your home to improve your quality of life then please contact West Lancashire Borough Council."

Councillor Kevin Wright

To apply directly to the council, you must be aged 19 or over, be a home-owner, private tenant or housing association tenant and live in the borough.

If you are aged 19 or over and live with family but are not the owner or tenant of the property, the owner or tenant can apply for a grant on your behalf.

You must also be disabled or have a long-term health condition that restricts your ability to carry out basic daily tasks, such as bathing or getting up and down the stairs.

Grants are means tested so all applicants will be asked to complete a financial assessment before being assessed by an occupational therapist.

For further information or to apply contact the private sector housing team on 01695 585 279 or privatesectorhousing@westlancs.gov.uk. People can also find out more information by visiting www.westlancs.gov.uk/dfg.

Adaptations for West Lancs Council tenants are dealt with separately. Contact Lancashire County Council on 0300 123 6720 and ask for an occupational therapist assessment.

Disabled facilities grants are available for children.

Referrals for a grant must come from a paediatric occupational therapist. If you don't have an occupational therapist, contact Lancashire County Council on 0300 123 6701 or your GP.

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Victoria Fellowes, Marketing Manager, said: "Just 6 years ago, the area that is now the canoe safari was a large field that we once grazed sheep on. It is amazing to see how it has matured and we have created fantastic habitat that species such as kingfisher, heron, little grebe and watervoles have made their home; and you can get great sightings of these species as well as carp, moorhen and robin as well as listening to the sound of woodpeckers and bird calls. It is one of the most popular experiences we offer at Martin Mere in the summer and a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages to get immersed in nature in a tranquil relaxing atmosphere."

Take our guided boat tour learning all about Martin Mere whilst listening to our knowledgeable staff and volunteers tell you all about the amazing scenery and wildlife as well as the history of Martin Mere. You could also take a self guided tour of the wetland in one of the canoes, taking your time to enjoy all the scenery that Martin Mere has to offer.

Canoes can hold up to three people and cost £7.00 for the hour rental; the guided boat tour is available from £3.00 per person for a 30 minute guided tour. The boats seat 8 people and can also accommodate 2 wheelchairs.

There are no age restrictions to go on the canoe safari, although the person must be able to fit into the supplied life jacket. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
The attraction is open every day until the end of October half term from 11am to 4pm everyday.

WWT Martin Mere is open every day from 9.30am to 6pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight centres.

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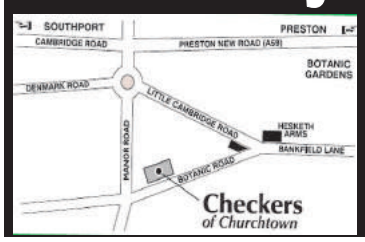

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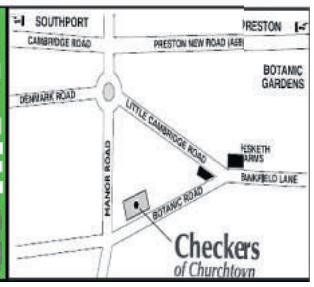

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Carrie Byrom (centre) and the team in the finished yurt at Stable Lives in Parbold

Yurt loan helps charity bridge gap until fundraising target is hit

MILITARY veterans and volunteers have installed a Mongolian yurt at a charity's base in West Lancashire.

International eventing competitor Carrie Byrom recently staged a 24-hour ride, using 24 different horses, to kick-start her £10,000 fundraising target to buy the yurt for her community interest company, Stable Lives in Parbold.

They hope to have reached their target by November and have already raised around £4,000.

But in the meantime, they are being loaned a yurt by suppliers, The Yurt Company, and this has been erected by the charity's veterans and volunteers.

Carrie set up the charity after she realised that being around the horses helped sufferers with issues such as confidence and reintegrating into local communities.

Although it was originally aimed at helping military veterans and their families with respite and self-esteem, it now caters for all ages and a range of issues, including schoolchildren with behavioural problems and older people suffering with dementia.

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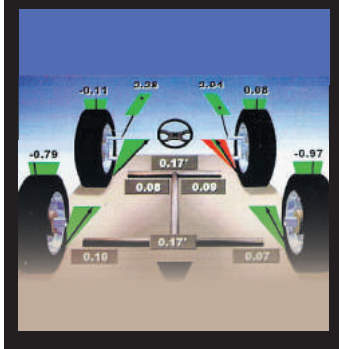

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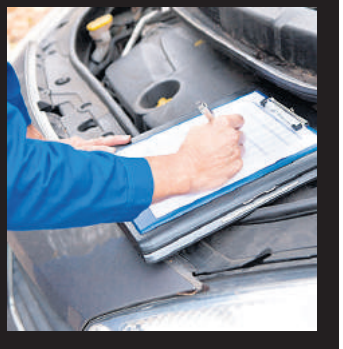

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Prizewinners named in Open exhibition

PRIZEWINNERS have been announced in this year's Lancashire Open Exhibition staged at the Chapel Gallery which organisers say has brought together a vibrant collection of works by accomplished artists from across the UK.

The annual exhibition was unveiled to the public on Saturday, July 22 and will be open at the West Lancs Council-run gallery in St Helens Road until Wednesday, September 6.

Formerly known as the West Lancashire Exhibition, this celebration of colour, technique and imagination gives visitors the chance to see a variety of inspiring works created by talented individuals in a wide range of media.

All the works were judged by guest selectors including Jack Doyle, an artist and curator and director at PS Mirabel Manachester; and Tony Smith, an artist and curator and lecturer at Liverpool Hope University.

Several works of art received commendations but the first prize, worthy £800 went to Lucie Wilson from Bolton with her work entitled *Fragility*.

Other winners were:

2nd prize £400 (joint awards of £200 each): Nick Sykes from Manchester, *We Never Thought We Could Lose*; and Jo Swift from Wirral, *The Loop*.

3rd prize £200: Michael Kirby, from Kirkby, *Untitled*.

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Neil Furey is pictured with joint second prize winner, Jo Swift and judges, Jack Doyle and Tony Smith

Student prize £150: Olivia Maddocks, from Wrexham, for artwork, *Stripe 2, 2017*.

Sculpture prize £150: Polly Tomlinson from Halsall, *Bitumen*.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "Congratulations to all the prizewinners and good luck to them in the future.

"This is a challenging time for the arts so the fact that this exhibition continues to develop from strength to strength is testament to the passion and commitment of the artists exhibited. Visitors will find work from established professionals through to students and amateurs with ambition."

The Lancashire Open is one of the gallery's most popular exhibitions offering an excellent opportunity for any would-be art collectors. Artworks range from small scale watercolours, prints and photography to large scale contemporary oil paintings, 3D works and textiles. They can be purchased at very reasonable prices.

Visitors can also place their votes for the People's Prize winner when they visit and be in with a chance to win a fantastic prize.

If anyone would like a tour of the exhibition they can contact the gallery on 01695 571328 or email chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Litter problem is getting worse but residents should do their bit to keep the area tidy

THE roadside litter in Aughton continues to be a blight on the area which appears to be getting worse.

Whilst the main roads (Prescot Road, Moss Delph Lane, Long Lane) suffer from inconsiderate motorists throwing plastic bottles, empty cigarette boxes and fast food junk out of car windows, this is not something that affects minor roads, the worst of which for rubbish has to be Victoria Road which is strewn with rubbish.

I cleared this road myself filling a bin bag with bottles last weekend, and no I don't live there but do walk a dog.

It amazes me that residents can't be bothered themselves yet are quite happy for others to do it

I cannot understand how residents of any of these areas, who would pick up rubbish in their gardens, let it sit outside their houses on the roads and pavements untouched.

Too many times I see lazy residents putting their own bins and recycling boxes out yet make no effort whatsoever to pick up bottles and rubbish by their own property.

If every resident in the area bothered to keep their immediate area clear of rubbish (and let's face it, this takes a few seconds a week), the entire area would look so much better for all.

The council are not going to do this on a regular basis so it is up to us to improve our own area.

Aughton resident, by email

Why has it taken so long for our elected representatives to see how rundown our town is?

I'M glad that our MP has at last made a statement concerning Skelmersdale.

I've been saying for years that if you needed to buy anything you have to go to Wigan, St Helens or Liverpool.

I just wonder why it has taken the people we put in power to look after our interests so long to see this?

You only have to walk around the area to see how rundown the place is.

Everywhere is a disgrace. Nowhere is maintained to a good standard any more.

It's all well and good the councillors saying they are going to do this or that, but it's broken promises all the time and this has gone on for a lot of years.

When are they going to say we are going to do something and do it?

Why do we vote them in if they don't do anything?

So come on, let's see something being done to make Skelmersdale better.

I remember the council seeking the views of a person called Wayne Hemingway about what changes he thought we needed.

What happened to that and how much did it cost the people of West Lancs?

The old saying is actions speak louder than words. Let's see if anything happens.

David Carter, Skelmersdale

PICTURE of the week

Canalside strummer Keith Rudd tunes up for last weekend's Parbulele 2017. Picture by Martyn Snape.

More savings could be made by losing' Skem

IT was interesting to read that West Lancs Borough Council is looking at making some savings in terms of withdrawing the mayor's car etc.

However, since it is one of the most expensive boroughs in the whole of Lancashire in terms of allowances for councillors - who, by the way, have fewer responsibilities compared to neighbouring authorities - I also believe that further savings could be made by having a unitary authority.

For example, Skelmersdale has nothing in common with Ormskirk and the rurals in terms of its economic and social make-up. Here's a thought, why not absorb it into either Wigan or Merseyside, who I believe would serve the needs of Skelmersdale as well as being more cost-effective to the taxpayer?

Patricia Walsh, by email

A change for the worse

I HAVE been attending the diabetic clinic in Ormskirk for a number of years now and get excellent help.

I have seen the doctor, nurses and dietician all in one building and it has been great. I even have my eyes checked in the same building.

Now I have been informed that, as Virgin have taken over the service, I am going to have to go to different locations to see each one individually. Where this will be, as yet, has not been decided.

This can only make things harder for diabetic patients, especially if they have mobility problems.

Is this a step nearer to having to pay for our health care? This will surely come next.

Diabetic patient, West Lancs

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Military shouldn't glamorise careers in the armed forces

I FULLY agree with Bernard Draper's letter in the Champion (July 26) about the military trying to recruit teenagers into the armed forces.

The military are well aware that this age group are particularly impressionable and that is why they target them.

We are all aware that each country has to defend itself against aggression, but do they have to make out that it is a wonderful life when they know full well it is nothing of the sort?

Youngsters embarking on a career should read books like *All Quiet on the Western Front* if they are thinking about joining the armed forces. Writers of such books have experienced the real thing and they know what they are talking about.

The right word for war is obscene. If the military must recruit, they should at least tell the truth and not glamorise war, making out it is all glory and honour.

P. Fallon, Skelmersdale

Mayor's office still has a significant community role to play in borough

I WAS disappointed to read in a recent issue of the Champion that it is being proposed by some, that the future role and significance of the office of mayor of the borough be significantly reduced in a further effort by the borough council to save money.

I strongly disagree with this proposal as I believe the office of mayor continues to fulfil an important role within the community - a role which extends and has influence far beyond the borough's boundary.

The mayor is an important community leader and frequently acts as a spokesperson for the community on a wide variety of issues and continues to represent the authority of the council.

The insignia of the mace, robes, chains of office etc act as a clear symbol of the mayor's authority. The mayor, through the office and its trappings, connects citizens of today with our rich history and acts as a symbol of continuity.

The office of mayor symbolises an open society as the choice of mayor is no longer restricted to wealthy dignitaries but can (and does) come from any class, gender or ethnic background.

No longer is it the privilege of the white upper class male and this new diversity reflects the more open and democratic society we now live in. It acts therefore as an expression of social cohesion.

The many engagements undertaken by the mayor give cohesion to the life of West Lancashire and the excellent work which successive mayors - of all political parties - have done in raising significant and much-needed funds for a variety of local charities would undoubtedly suffer.

It is for these reasons that I would urge the council to uphold the office of Mayor of the Borough of West Lancashire.

David Ashley, Resident of West Lancashire.

Rosemary and Brian Wallington who have celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary

Sparkling celebration for diamond duo . . .

FORMER school teachers Brian and Rosemary Wallington are certainly top of the class for marital longevity after clocking up 60 years of wedded harmony.

The couple of Ruff Lane, Ormskirk celebrated their diamond milestone with a lunchtime party for family and friends at Hurlston Hall Golf Club on Sunday, August 6.

Brian, 89, was formerly head of biology at Ormskirk Grammar School, before retiring in 1989, while 82-year--old Rosemary was deputy headteacher at West End County Primary School until her retirement in 1994.

The couple, who tied the knot at Ormskirk Parish Church on August 8, 1957, have two sons, Andrew and Richard, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Since calling time on their classroom careers they keep busy with a variety of interests and social activities, including the National Trust, the Horus Egyptolgiy Society based in Wigan, and the Ormskirk Camera Club.

And their recipe for a long and happy marriage?

"A loving relationship, tolerance, a good sense of humour and sharing common interests."

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Unis urged to sign up to meningitis awareness scheme

UNIVERSITIES across the UK, including Edge Hill, are being encouraged to sign up for a Meningitis Aware Recognition Mark (MARM).

Developed by the charity Meningitis Now, the scheme aims to raise awareness of meningitis and meningococcal disease among students and staff, promote vaccine uptake, and prepare universities for dealing with a case on campus.

Meningitis can affect anyone at any time, but there are particular factors that increase the risk of meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia in students, particularly those in their first year.

Recommended vaccinations do not protect against all types of meningitis and some students may not have been vaccinated. The MARM toolkit has been developed to help universities ensure they are meeting recommendations set out in Public Health England's guidance on the prevention and management of meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia.

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Would-be firefighters given a taste of what to expect

WOULD-BE retained firefighters were given a taste of what their role could entail at a special recruitment event.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service chiefs held the event at Ormskirk Fire Station in County Road, offering potential on-call recruits an opportunity to discuss the various aspects of the job.

They were also able to witness watch manager, Mark Lamb, and Ormskirk team firefighters Rick Waller, Glenn Little and Clayton Howard demonstrating a chemical hazard training exercise.

To qualify for the positions retained firefighters must work or live no more than five minutes away from Tarleton, Ormskirk or Skelmersdale fire stations as they can be called to a variety of emergencies at short notice - from road, rail or air crashes, to floods, fires, chemical spills or rescuing people trapped in confined spaces.

Applicants must also be aged 18-plus; have a good level of fitness; have good eyesight and hearing (aided/unaided); and be literate and numerate.

Right: Ormskirk firefighters taking part in the chemical hazard training exercise.

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Search for family of worker who carved his name into panel at historic hall

Report by **Kenny Parker**

NATIONAL Trust officials are seeking to trace the family or descendants of a West Lancashire tradesman known to have worked on Rufford Old Hall in 1949.

As major refurbishments are underway on the 500-year-old Tudor Great Hall, a name inscribed on a timber frame has been uncovered and staff hope that learning more about its author may yield valuable insights into the building's history.

House steward, Lynne Mills, said the hall, built in 1530, was treated for death-watch beetle in the late 1940s but builders used cement, which was later found to be unsuitable for wooden buildings.

As panels have been removed from the gable end of the building to replace the cement with the more traditional wattle and daub, the name W. Allen, along with what appear to be the Roman numerals XIXIL, have been found etched into a hidden beam.

Lynne says she would like to hear from any family or descendants of W. Allen, who is believed to have worked with a Burscough company, and to learn if they have any stories about the building they would like to share.

She said: "The gable end of the building had death-watch beetle in the late 1940s. It was treated and it is all okay but they put cement in it which is not good for a wooden building. So we have taken the cement out and we are to replace it with traditional wattle and daub.

The inscribed panel at Rufford Old Hall

"We know there was a building company based in Burscough that did a lot of work, but we found this name, and it's quite well marked with W. Allen and XIXXIL in Roman numeral style and I thought it would be nice for his family to see it."

She added: "If I was in their position I would want to see what my ancestors had done. It may also help us with our records. We don't have brilliant records here and they may have stories attached to the building which they would like to re-tell."

If anybody has information about W. Allen they are asked to contact Lynne Mills on 01704 823821 or email lynne.mills@national-trust.org.uk.

Shoplifter stole alcohol to make him feel better after benefits cut

A MAN caught shoplifting had resorted to stealing alcohol to make himself feel better after his benefits were reduced by more than £700 per month, a court was told.

George Owen, 49, of Liverpool Road North, Burscough pleaded guilty to theft from a shop at Sefton Magistrates Court on Wednesday, August 2.

Prosecutor Lynn Clark said that he had taken pliers with him to Asda in Southport and after using them to remove the security tag from two bottles of Jack Daniels whiskey, worth £64, tried to leave the store after concealing them in his clothes.

"He said he is an alcoholic," Miss Clark said he told police in interview.

"He went to the store with the intention of stealing for his own personal use as a result of reduction in his benefits. He was apologetic for his actions."

The prosecutor added that he had "an extensive record" of 34 convictions, many of which were for similar offences.

Defending solicitor Rachel Worthington said that Owen had told police his benefits had gone from £1,100 per month to £360, and that he had to make a contribution of £120 towards his rent out of that.

"He found it extremely difficult to cope with the money being given," she said, "And he resorted to old ways of stealing alcohol to make himself feel better about the situation he was in."

The magistrates imposed a 16-week 7pm to 7am curfew and ordered that he pay costs and victim surcharge of £170.

Ormskirk Gingerbread Lady, Alice, with the mayor and mayoress, members of the Community Partnership and local artist Anton at the Gingerbread Festival launch

Gingerbread Festival goes down a treat!

VISITORS flocked to the Ormskirk Gingerbread Festival held in the town centre to celebrate the town's traditional links with the popular confectionery with a chance to check out special markets and vintage crafts, as well as sampling the tasty treat!

The event is run by Ormskirk Community Partnership, who were given £10,000 by the Big Lottery Fund to bring schools and the community together through the Ormskirk Gingerbread Project.

The project explores the heritage of Ormskirk, highlighting buildings and sites with historical interest, and looking at places connected with gingerbread. With its mix of educational and commercial involvement, the project aims to forge close links between all local schools and voluntary groups and local businesses.

Visitors to the Ormskirk Gingerbread Festival were able to enjoy and try their hand at circus skills as part of the street entertainment to mark the launch of the event.

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Public's comments invited on bar extension plan

RESIDENTS have until Friday, August 18 to submit their comments in writing to West Lancs Council on a proposed extension to an Ormskirk bar and night club.

Proprietors of the Alpine Club Lodge, a popular venue with students, have submitted a planning application to the council seeking permission to extend the club into a currently unoccupied neighbouring property.

The bar currently occupies 17 to 21 Railway Road. It is hoped to incorporate the vacant unit at No. 23 and create an outdoor area to the rear of the premises.

The application is for planning permission for a change of use from A1 (shops) to A4 (drinking establishment) including alterations to the front elevation to include bi-folding doors and timber cladding, plus outside seating area and associated works to the rear.

Comments can be made on the council's website at www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning by clicking on 'comment on a planning application' and entering the case reference 2017/0706/FUL

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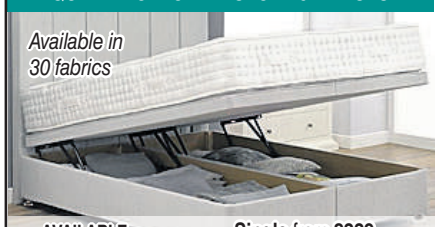

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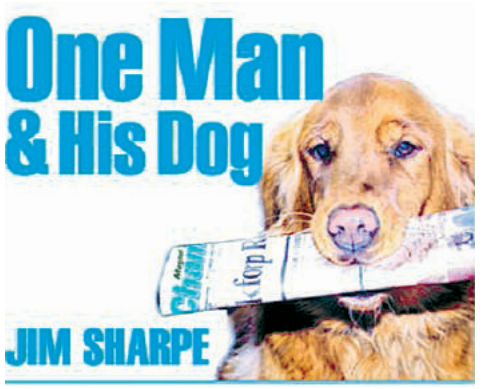

Losing items of little monetary value can often cause the greatest distress

I'M feeling rather guilty about something at the moment - something that isn't really my fault.

The other day, on the bus travelling to Champion Towers in Southport, a woman sitting in front of me, who had apparently recognised me as I got on, turned round and asked my advice as to how she could get a short piece in the paper and would she have to pay.

It turned out she had lost her keyring, she thought perhaps at the check-out in Morrison's supermarket in Maghull. The keyring had great sentimental value to her as it carried a particular photograph.

Not a 'hard news' story, but obviously just the kind of thing that a local newspaper might be able to help her out with.

Anyway, I told her I could include her plea to have it returned in this column. She wrote her name and telephone number on a piece of paper and I said I would phone her to get all the details.

No, I didn't forget. But I noticed that there was something written on the reverse side of the paper and when she realised it was something she wanted to keep she carefully tore off the bottom part which included the name and phone number. I folded it and put it in my filing system (the library book I was reading), meaning to phone her when I got home.

I didn't look at the paper again until settled comfortably in my chair, pen and notebook at hand, and poised to pick up the phone. Only then did I look at the paper again and realised that she had in fact torn off the bit with her phone number on it.

Only the name remained. So, Louisa Hopkins, if you would care to phone me on 0151 526 1446, I would love to talk to you, though I really hope you have been reunited with your keyring by now.

I know very well how distressing it can be to lose objects with little financial value but of great value personally. When I was 11 or 12 I was sitting a rather important exam and my mum lent me a tiny silver aeroplane which she had carried as a good luck token ever since her childhood. I put it in my blazer pocket and took it out, just to hold it, several times during the day.

But when mum asked for its return, I put my hand in my pocket and the little plane was no longer there. Mum didn't cause a fuss but I knew how unhappy its loss had made her.

Incidentally, I didn't pass the exam either (though to be fair it was one of those which very few did) but at the time I really wondered if the loss of that little silver trinket was the cause.

Or there was an occasion when I was working. I'd completed an interview at the town hall and remembered I needed an item for my evening meal. So, with notebook still in hand, I walked to the appropriate shop, completed my small shop and went home. Only hours later did I realise I no longer had my reporter's notebook.

More in hope than any real expectation of success, I hastened back to the shop and explained my predicament. A lovely lady dived into a rear storeroom and produced the errant book, along with a newspaper I had forgotten I even had!

The relief was almost (though not quite) on a par with the occasion when I lost my bus pass while out walking my dog Tina. But it was the following morning before I discovered its loss. I had an idea of where it might have escaped, rushed thence, and found nothing.

Within minutes of getting back home though there was a knock on the door and a youth proffered the lost pass. He lived fairly close by and had recognised the photo of me on the pass. My relief was so great I could hardly find the words to thank him.

So, Louisa Hopkins, if I can possibly help you trace your keyring, please get in touch.

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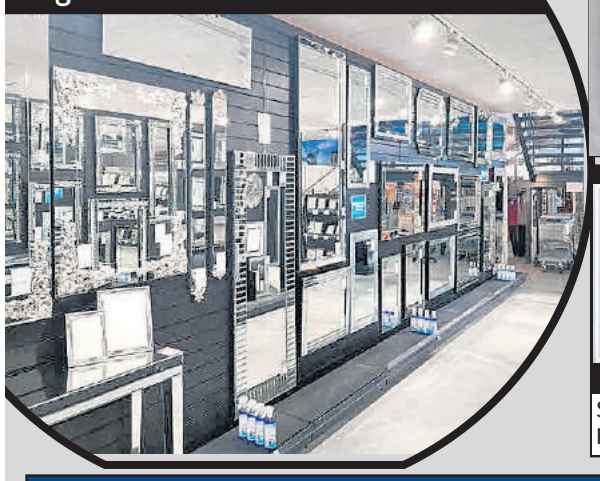

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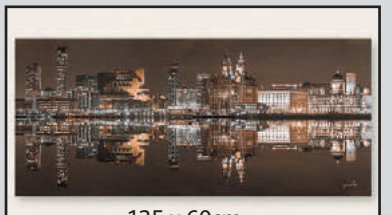

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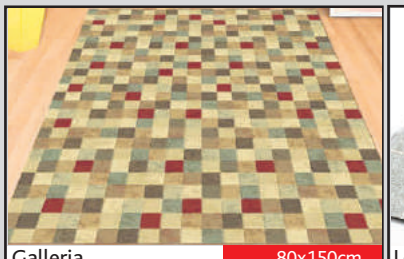

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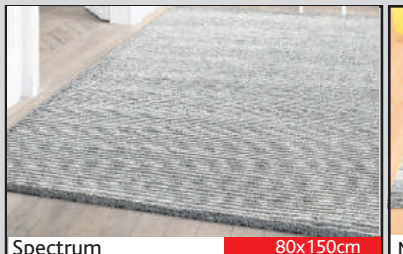

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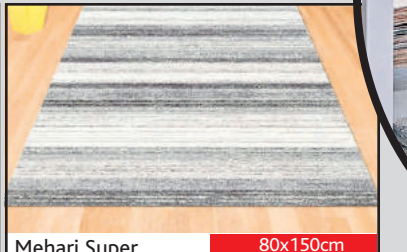

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University teams up with former track ace for youth project

EDGE Hill University has teamed up with former athletics star, Kris Akabusi, the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) and Everton in the Community (EITC), to showcase the incredible things young people from the care system can achieve.

Young people from EITC's Breathing Space project, as well as some who work with NYAS, are starring alongside Akabusi, who grew up in care, in a new video shot on location around the Ormskirk campus and at Everton's Goodison Park home.

And the youngsters will also play a leading role in the planning and production of the video, which will be revealed by NYAS in the autumn.

The charity, which supports vulnerable young people all over the country, is working on the 'Digital Life Stories' video with PR firm, No Brainer and engagement agency, Trunk.

The second part of the project takes place in Devon and Cardiff this month when young people will have the chance to get involved in an animated film.

Kriss Akabusi was born in London in 1958 but placed in care when his parents moved back to Nigeria four years later. He won an Olympic silver medal at the 1984 Los Angeles games in the 4x400m relay before picking up gold in the same event at the 1991 Tokyo World Championships.

He has since gone on to launch his own charity, the Akabusi Charitable Trust, working with young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) to help prepare them for the world of work.

Kris Akabusi

"Having experienced the care system first hand, I understand how crucial it is to offer encouragement to the young people and show them that absolutely anything is possible," said Kriss.

"Every child should dream big, shoot for the stars, and remember that the past is for reference, not for residence."

NYAS operates across England and Wales for children, young people and adults, providing them with advocacy and legal representation when important decisions are being made about them.

Over the last 12 months alone, it has supported more than 9,000 children and young people.

NYAS chief executive, Rita Waters, added: "It's wonderful to have the support of Everton in the Community, Edge Hill and Kriss for the 'Digital Life Stories' project. They've all thrown their full support behind this project and have really taken the time to understand our aims and future goals as a charitable organisation.

"Kriss is such an inspirational figure who truly cares about the welfare and help available to children and the young people are thrilled to be working alongside an Olympic athlete.

"It's an experience many of them will cherish for the rest of their lives. We're excited to see the finished campaigns appear throughout the UK."

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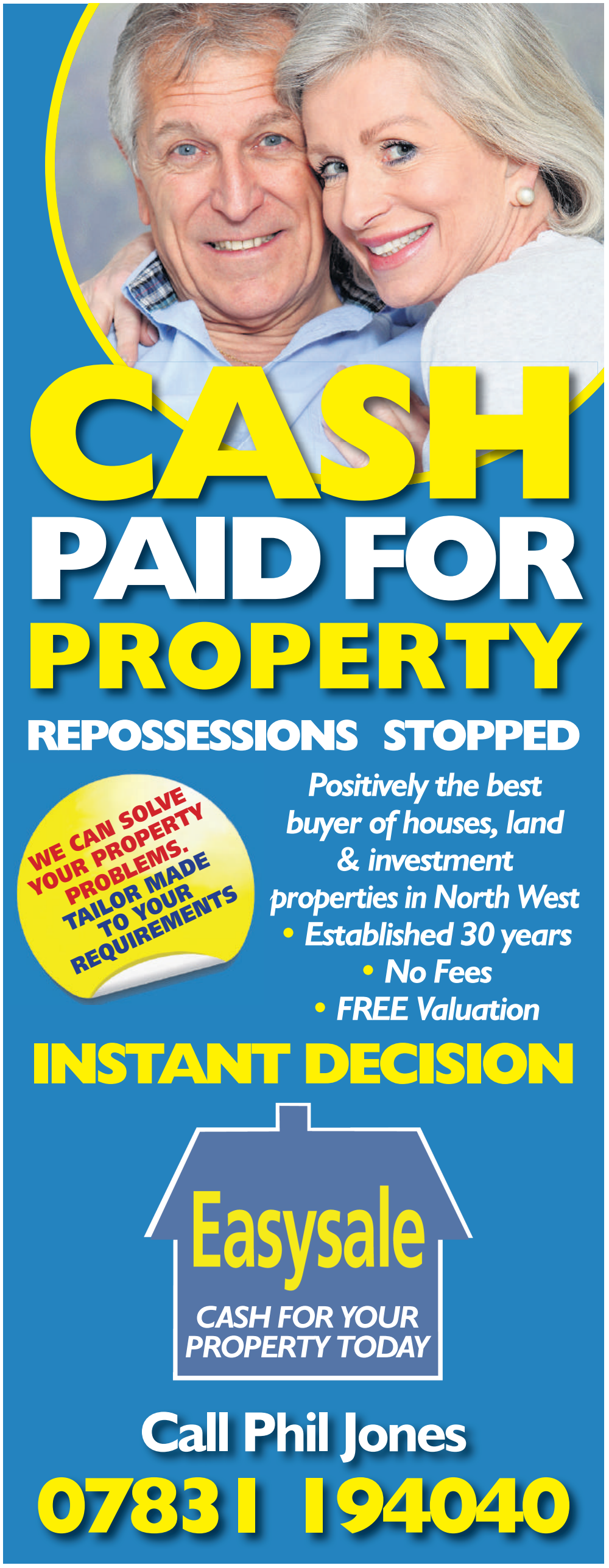

Chance to try your hand at historic printing craft

by Danielle Thompson

A MAN who set up his own letterpress printing business after being introduced to the craft as part of his rehabilitation from a devastating spinal injury, is inviting members of the public to have a go for free as part of a celebration event.

Brian Smith from Rufford, set up the Rufford Printing Co in January 1970 at his parents' home after a fall from a hammock left him paralysed from the neck down at just 17 years of age.

Having been introduced to letterpress printing - the origins of which date back to the 15th century - as part of his rehabilitation programme at Southport Hospital, he purchased a hand press and a small selection of typefaces and set up his business on his mother's dining table, before moving to the Design Shed at Cedar Farm in Mawdesley in the 1990s.

Now to mark 30 years of Cedar Farm opening, 65-year-old Brian will be running free sessions for members of the public to try out printing on commemorative coasters. These will be held from 12.30 to 3pm on Wednesday, August 16 and from 10am to 3pm on Saturday, August 19.

Brian said: "The spinal injury which left me in wheelchair when I was only 17 was life-changing for me. I fell out of a hammock and the next minute I couldn't walk.

Brian Smith at the Rufford Printing Co

"I had done shorthand and was planning to go into journalism but the accident left with me with mobility problems and no feelings in my fingers.

"Having done some letterpress printing during rehabilitation, when I left hospital I bought a small hand press.

"Jobs for disabled people in the 1970s were very hard to come by so I thought it would be better to set up my own printing business.

"It just gradually increased but letterpress printing and design has changed and its popularity has expanded hugely as people enjoy the uniqueness of something that is not exactly the same every time, that is not mass-produced as a cloned copy.

"The beauty with the letterpress is that each impression has a tiny difference. It's the nature of this printing, the traditional and personable approach, the time taken for each job and the unique finalised articles that have given the trade a whole new lease of life.

"Cedar Farm has been going for 30 years and all of the businesses are holding celebrations to mark this. So everyone is welcome to try out printing at one of of our free sessions."

For more information or to book a one-on-one session visit ruffordprinting.co.uk or call the workshop on 01704 821285.

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Work starts on £500k project to reopen Weld Blundell pub

WORK has started on a £490,000 project to reopen The Weld Blundell pub in Lydiate more than a year after it closed.

The refurbishment at the pub on Southport Road is being undertaken by Heineken-owned Star Pubs & Bars and the venue's new operator Mike Reeve.

Work is expected to take two months with The Weld Blundell scheduled to reopen in early October and 15 new jobs will be created.

Inside, The Weld Blundell will be completely refurbished and redecorated throughout including new toilets, and a new open-plan kitchen.

The public bar will be retained and its fireplace restored whilst, at the rear, a dining area with views over the garden and room for 50 customers will be built.

Outside, work will focus on upgrading the car park, repainting the pub and planting new shrubs and flowers. Disabled access will be added with a new side entrance from the car park.

The overgrown rear garden will be landscaped and properly enclosed making it safe for children and a patio will also be laid for al fresco eating and drinking. And the pub will be 'dog-friendly' with water bowls and dog treats behind the bar.

by **Danielle Thompson**

Mike was brought up in Maghull and Lydiate and still has family living in the local area.

He said: "I was hooked when I found out a refurbishment was planned.

"I've known the pub for 30 years and it made me sad to see it boarded up when I drove past. It has such a prominent position in the village, it needs to look its very best.

"I'll be going for Cask Marque accreditation as proof of excellent cask ale quality and I'd like to offer beer from a local brewery through Star's partnership with the Society of Independent Brewers.

"I want to create a comfortable welcoming village pub where people can meet and enjoy a drink or a meal."

David Pritchard, Star Pubs & Bars operations director said: "Mike is a first-class licensee.

"He has close family ties to the area and is committed to meeting the needs of the community.

"We're delighted to be investing with him to revive The Weld Blundell's fortunes."

The Weld Blundell and the new licensee Mike Reeve

Super slimmer Joyce Carroll before reaching her target weight (left) and after (right)

Super slimmer Joyce is a shining example

A PENSIONER from Ormskirk has been crowned Diamond Member of the Year by her slimming group for setting a shining example of long-term weight loss.

Joyce Carroll joined the Ormskirk Slimming World group in January 2015 and lost three stone in seven months - and she's kept the weight off ever since.

Now the 72-year-old, who dropped from 13st 1lb to 9st 13lb, has been named the group's Diamond Member 2017. The title is awarded to the group's most inspirational member who has lost weight and maintained their new shape, as voted for by fellow group members.

Joyce first joined Slimming World originally to support her daughter. She says: "When I first came to the group I found it hard to believe I'd ever reach my target weight because I'd tried so many diets before and they'd never worked.

'Happier'

"Of course, what I really had to learn is that quick-fix diets don't work, I needed to completely change my lifestyle and that's exactly what Slimming World has taught me to do. Plus, I've received so much support from my wonderful Slimming World group.

"Sharing tips and ideas has definitely helped me maintain my weight loss. Each week in group I pick up new ideas and recipes – even now after three years at target! My life is completely unrecognisable now and I'm happier, healthier and fitter than ever."

Joyce began following Slimming World's Food Optimising eating plan and since reaching her target weight in August 2015 she has continued to attend the group, where she has made lots of friends.

Slimming World consultant, Tina Whewell, added: "I'm so proud of Joyce and the inspirational way in which she's maintained her weight loss. I hope she inspires other people in Ormskirk too."

Joyce is now in the running to become national Slimming World Diamond Member 2017. The overall winner, to be chosen from one of Slimming World's 16,000 groups across the UK and Ireland next month, will win a £2,000 prize.

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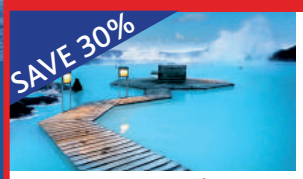

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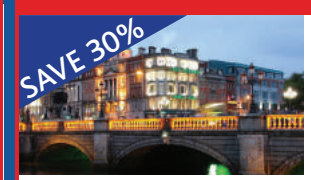

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CCG looking to provide more accessible eye services for borough

Report by **Kenny Parker**

The NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group is looking to provide a range of eye care services closer to home for patients in the borough

HEALTH service officials in West Lancashire would like to speak to people in the borough who have experiences of using eye services (ophthalmology).

The NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), is currently testing the market for ophthalmology services - both in terms of a community service (tier 2 and triage) and for an age-related macular degeneration service - and is seeking bids from interested providers who would like to deliver this service locally.

This is part of a formal procurement process.

Tier 2 ophthalmology is the treatment of eye conditions. The tier 2 means this is a community service for minor treatments only. Examples of the types of treatments offered within a typical tier 2 ophthalmology services include lids/lashes tears, red eye, corneal conditions, foreign bodies, corneal ulcers, contact lense-induced corneal infections and flashes/floaters.

Patients living in West Lancashire with age-related macular degeneration currently have to travel out of the area to receive the treatment they need.

Jackie Moran of NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "We know from conversations we have had with our community that they would like care closer to their own homes. This new-look service will propose there are more sites delivering this service in West Lancashire meaning they are more accessible for everyone.

"It is hoped that minor surgery will also be something on offer locally, to reduce travel times for patients."

The CCG would like to hear from anyone with experiences of eye services, both locally and nearby, to invite them to take part in a patient focus group in September.

Jackie Moran added: "As with any service improvement, we must hear first-hand from patients that have actual experience of using these services so would like to encourage any local residents to get in touch."

The CCG can be contacted via myview@westlancashir-eccg.nhs.uk or by phone on 01695 588 000.

The date and venue of the focus group have yet to be confirmed, but it is likely it will involve an informal group discussion among local patients lasting between one and two hours.

If you have experiences but don't wish to attend the focus group, the CCG would still welcome the opportunity to hear your views.

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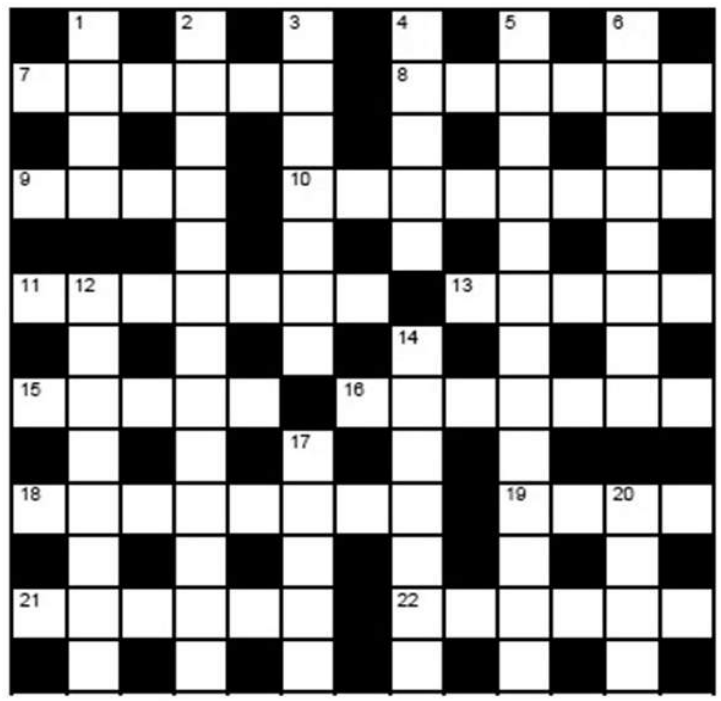

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Eczema. 8. Afloat. 9. Tilt. 10. Bearskin. 11. Implode. 13. Gypsy. 15. Scene. 17. Trounce. 20. Blast off. 21. Berk. 22. Warm up. 23. Stolen.

Down: 1. Schism. 2. Pest. 3. Lambada. 4. Kayak. 5. Bless you. 6. Ladies. 12. Lonesome. 14. Profuse. 16. Collar. 18. Career. 19. Coupe. 21. Blob.

ACROSS

7. Distort the shape of (6)
8. Waterlogged (6)
9. Informal term for to sleep rough (4)
10. Public shame or disgrace (8)
11. Wembley or Anfield, for instance (7)
13. In ancient mythology a drunken, lustful woodland god half-man, half-beast (5)
15. Daily record of events, experiences or thoughts (5)
16. Become unconscious (4, 3)
18. Winter sport combining cross-country skiing and rifle shooting (8)
19. To cause physical injury (4)
21. Ceremonial chair for a sovereign (6)
22. Playful activity (6)

DOWN

1. Nought (4)
2. Careful thought (13)
3. A compilation of episodes of a TV programme, usually a soap opera (7)
4. Make minor changes to (5)
5. Pupils had to pass the 11-plus to attend this secondary education establishment (7, 6)
6. Expression of gratitude (5, 3)
12. Time between dawn and sunrise or sunset and dusk (8)
14. Make something appear larger than it is (7)
17. Wintry precipitation that melts on landing (5)
20. Mode of transport (4)

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Still time to enter Concours d'Elegance

THERE'S still time for owners of high-quality cars to enter the Concours d'Elegance competition at this year's Ormskirk MotorFest on Sunday, August 27.

The contest will be a major attraction at the MotorFest for the third successive year with some of the most beautiful cars entered into the fantastic free motoring extravaganza line-up for expert judges to cast their eye over.

A number of vehicles have already been entered but there is still room for a few more. MotorFest organisers are particularly looking for more cars from 1957 as part of the celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the British Grand Prix held at Aintree.

Best in show gets the fantastic Brian Brady Trophy with class winners receiving super solid crystal trophies. All entrants will receive special 'Rally Plates' and a goodies bag.

The 13 classes in the Concours d'Elegance will include sections for supercars, saloon cars from between 1966 and 1990 and classes for pre-Second World War cars and motorcycles.

Councillor John Hodson

Entry costs £15 and you can enter online at www.ormskirk-motorfest.com.

Mike Ashcroft, chairman of Aintree Circuit Club, said: "The Concours d'Elegance shows off some of the most beautiful cars at the MotorFest in a really special way.

"We already have some wonderful vehicles for the Concours, but would still welcome other entries for this part of the event."

Halsall-based Carequick Ltd Air Conditioning are sponsoring the Concours de Elegance for the third successive year.

Managing director, Colin Maxwell, said: "The Concours de Elegance has been a great spectacle for the last two years with some fantastic cars taking part and many people enjoying taking a close look at them. I am delighted to be able to sponsor it for a third year."

Ormskirk MotorFest is organised by Aintree Circuit Club and supported by West Lancs Council.

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "With so many thousands of visitors expected to come to Ormskirk for the MotorFest, we hope that town centre businesses will take advantage of this great opportunity and open up on the day."

Cars and motorcycles not taking part in the Concours d'Elegance will also be lined up in Coronation Park and streets across Ormskirk town centre.

About 300 fabulous cars and motorcycles from all eras of motoring will be on display and many of them will take part in exciting parade laps around the town centre.

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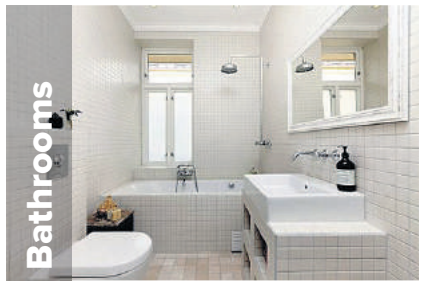

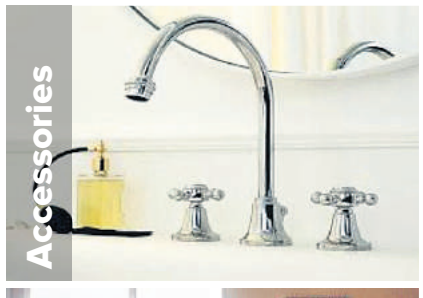

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There are some conditions that need to be dealt with as a matter of urgency and if you notice any of the following you should seek veterinary attention straight away.

Inability to urinate: This is a condition that is most commonly seen in male cats, you may notice your cat repeatedly straining to urinate without passing anything. This is an emergency and can be fatal if not treated.

Seizures: If your pet has a seizure try to stay as calm as you can, remember that they will be very confused and may become aggressive so stay safe. Call the vet for advice once your pet has come out of the seizure or if the seizure is lasting longer than 30 seconds to one minute.

Gastric Dilation Volvulus (GDV/Bloat): This is a condition most commonly seen in large, deep chested breeds of dog, such as German Shepherds, Dobermans and Great Danes. One of the risk factors for developing a GDV/Bloat is exercising after a large meal. You may notice your dog retching/trying to vomit unproductively and their abdomen becoming more swollen. If you are concerned then seek veterinary attention straight away as prompt treatment is required.

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There are many reasons you may need to visit the vet with your pet, remember that if you are ever unsure about what to do we are always happy to give advice over the phone.

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Champion ENTERTAINMENT

‘Thank you Bickerstock. You’re awesome!’

Report by **Kenny Parker**

VISITORS to Bickerstaffe’s own live music festival have been hailing another successful weekend.

The Bickerstaffe Community Free Music Festival, known as Bickerstock, entertained locals and music lovers over August 6 and 7.

The idea for the festival was originally conceived by Paul Draper who ran a recording studio in Bickerstaffe, called Dead Frog Studios, and was set up to give up-and-coming local musicians the opportunity to perform alongside established musicians.

Over the years the festival has grown, from when it took place in a field across from the Stanley Gate Pub, to where it is now held on Bickerstaffe Parish Field on Hall Lane. It has also earned the support and help from a cross section of the community and has raised money for a multitude of local charities.

Played on two stages over two days, nearly 20 bands were lined up to play and those who attended clearly had a great time.

Posting on social media, festival goer Tam Doerfel Hill said: “Another amazing time at Bickerstock, thanks to all you guys all working hard so we can make happy memories.”

International singer songwriter Sheldon Blackman with some of the performers and organisers at last weekend’s Bickerstock Music Festival.

Steven McCann attended the festival and said: “Another brilliant event. Thanks to all the people who organise the weekend. I love you all and can't wait to see you all next year.”

Perhaps visitor Sarah Jane Arbon summed it up, however, with: “Thank you Bickerstock!!! You're awesome!”

Bolan tribute

T.REXTASY are touring with The Marc Bolan 40th Commemorative Anniversary Tour and will be at Southport Theatre on Friday, September 22 at 7.30pm.

Accepted as the world’s only official live tribute band dedicated to Marc Bolan & T.Rex, and the only band endorsed and approved by Marc Bolan’s family, estate, original ex-members of T.Rex, and Bolan’s catalogue management, T.Rextasy have been described by many as ‘beyond the boundaries of tribute’.

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25 Aug - Birkdale, Conservative Club, PR8 4AR
29 Aug - Aintree, The Railway Club, Melling Rd, L9 0LQ
01 Sept - Ormskirk, Milano Coffee Shop, L40 8HF
02 Sept - Formby, The Gild Hall, L37 3NG
04 Sept - Burscough, The Stanley Club, L40 5TN
06 Sept - Fleetwood Hesketh Social Club, PR9 9XH
22 Sept - Crosby, Marine Football Club, L23 3AS
25 Sept - Maghull, Royal British Legion Club, L31 7DJ
06 Oct - Ske'dale, Upholland Labour Club, WN8 9AR

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2 NTS	Friday Tribute	Saturday Tribute	
Fri 1 Dec	Dolly Parton	Johhny Cash	£89.95
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*3 hours each evening. Selected draught beers, lagers, house wine, house spirits & soft drinks

Blackpool 99p BAR*
Savoy Hotel

2 NTS	Friday Tribute	Saturday Tribute	
Fri 17 Nov	Tina Turner	Madonna	£79.95
Fri 24 Nov	Tom Jones	Elvis	£79.95
Fri 15 Dec	Rod Stewart	Elvis	£79.95

*3 hours each evening. Selected draught beers, lagers, house wine, house spirits & soft drinks

Southport 99p BAR*
Scarisbrick Hotel

2 NTS	Friday Tribute	Saturday Tribute	
Fri 17 Nov	Elton John	Whitney Houston	£79.95
Fri 15 Dec	Tom Jones	Rod Stewart	£79.95

*3 hours each evening. Selected draught beers, lagers, house wine, house spirits & soft drinks

Scarborough 99p BAR*
Grand Hotel

2 NTS	Friday Tribute	Saturday Tribute	
Fri 6 Oct	Madonna	Michael Jackson	£79.95
Fri 13 Oct	Buddy Holly	Elvis Presley	£79.95
Fri 20 Oct	George Michael	Madonna	£79.95
Fri 27 Oct	Elvis Presley	Shirley Bassey	£79.95
Fri 3 Nov	Michael Jackson	Madonna	£79.95

*3 hours each evening. Selected draught beers, lagers, house wine, house spirits & soft drinks

Scarborough 2 for 1 DRINKS*
Grand Hotel

2 NTS	Friday Tribute	Saturday Tribute	
Fri 10 Nov	Garth Brooks	Dolly Parton	£85
Fri 17 Nov	Freddie Mercury	Robbie Williams	£85
Fri 24 Nov	Lionel Richie	Diana Ross	£85
Fri 1 Dec	Elton John	Rod Stewart	£85
Fri 8 Dec	Elvis Presley	Tom Jones	£85
Fri 15 Dec	Blues Brothers	The Bee Gees	£85

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AMMACO LADIES bike, perfect condition complete with shopping basket, shimano equipped £35 01704 877498

GIRLS BIKE Pink Apollo Bike suit 5-9 year old approx needs a service brakes, tyres etc hardly used £20 07771733673

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MONGOOSE BMX Bike Blue 20" Excellent Condition £130 07787323036

LADIES RALEIGH Caprice, good condition £150 07860 605607

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DIY

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ELECTRIC GUITAR Les Paul style, excellent condition, £370 with hard case 07814 380735

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ROCKET5 SPEAKER ROCKET 5, Powered speaker, new generation 3, un-used. £75 01704841792

MICROPHONE Shure sv200 vocal microphone with 15 foot mic cable. Un-used £15 01704841792

TELEVISION 26INCH Screen silver surround excellent condition may deliver £70 ono 0151 5263851

SHARP DVD/CD player, as new, scart lead included £25 01257 451485

HOUSE AND HOME

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01704873219

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HOUSE AND HOME

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TERRACOTTA ARMCHAIRS Fabric material, two armchairs from Stoker's Southport. Good condition, no pets. Buyer collects. Very solid construction. £100 Parbold 01257462764

BREADMACHINE Excellent condition used twice,great choice of functions makes all kinds of bread,even jam and yoghurt too was £80 sell for£40 o.n.o 01515265228

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EGG POACHER With sturdy glass lid 4 cups good quality originally £37 Any reasonable offers accepted above £5 Genuine reason for sale 01695420872

BRAUN COFFEE White Aromaster Coffee Maker makes up to 10 cups Bought £51 Sell any reasonable offers below £15. First come gets 01695429872

TEFAL JUICER Electric Vegetable|Fruit juice extractor Used twice. Bought £19 ANY REASONABLE OFFERS ACCEPTED BELOW £8 0169542082

HOUSE AND HOME

DUALIT ELECTRIC Toaster,2 slice in stainless steel with mint green sides,timer and toast lift lever,good condition. £25 01704 530137

HEATED FOOD Server. Sideboard hostess type, in stainless steel,3 ceramic dishes with glass lids,thermostat control,new unused. £25 01704 530137

ELECTRIC BED Single electric bed excellent condition mattress is topped with memory foam £100 01704 560179/07842834680

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HALL TABLES Two Matching Semi Circular Tables with Glass Inset Tops, Light Oak Finish, Any Offer Considered, Buyer to Collect 0151 2341794

IKEA DINNER SET 32 pieces, grey dinner plates, dessert plates, bowls and mugs. Many unused, Very good condition. £20 ono. 01704 560150

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DINING TABLE ex-Stokers 5ft x 3ft table, light oak & 4 brown leather chairs, very good condition, cost £1000, will accept £300 01704 876855

FREEZER White under counter freezer, w 50cm h 85cm d 50cm, 65ltr storage capacity, good clean condition £20 01704 231443

NAO PIECES Two new Nao pieces: 7" young girl with dog & 7" young boy with dog, matching, only £15 pair. Evenings 01704 576121

WOOD BURNER multi fuel stove, excellent condition, very little used, black with brass handles etc, can deliver locally. Bargain £120 01704 889328

MARBLE FIREPLACE beige, mantel, plinth and backplate, all solid marble, beautiful condition, buyer collects £120 ono 07450 290360

G-PLAN Two Malvern Elevate standard chairs, duel motor, cost over £2000, accept £500 each - buyer collects, 9 months old 0151 5266436

FREEZER Hotpoint Future under counter freezer, very good condition, clean, 3 drawers, 240 volt supply. £60, may deliver Formby area 01704 878805

CURTAINS Large velvet curtains in burnt orange colour. 115"x85" and 90"x84" approx with matching pelmets and lampshades, £35 lot 01704 506539

1920'S SIDEBOARD Bow fronted Queen Anne legs, 2 outside cupboards, 3 centre drawers, good condition £30 01704 576856

DRALON SUIT Three seater and two chairs, reversible cushions, plain and patterned, clean and tidy, Bargain at £70 07564 223114

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SWIVEL OFFICE Chair blue fabric on back seat and arms adjustable to suit excellent condition may deliver £30 ono 0151 5263851

DOUBLE BED Double divan bed and mattress well used but would do for students or spare room buyer collects £35 01695578640

HOUSE AND HOME

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3 PIECE suit in redish brown leather on a wooden base. Beautiful condition hardly used house sale forces sale. Bargain £350 ono 01704 875299

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WEDGEWOOD PLATE 8 inch Bone china plate. Scene from Wind in the Willows. Mint condition, still in foam box. £10 07854534059

LLOYD LOOM Armchair,in pale green with gold shaded edges,removable sprung seat. £30 01704 53017

HOSTESS TROLLEY Philips Hostess heated food trolley. £30 ONO (Collect in Walton). 0151 2844843

FLUORESCENT TUBES 5 new unused in boxes replacement tubes 1200 mm (4 Ft) long. £15 01704 560150

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GLASS CAKE STANDS £4-£5 each one tier glass stands great for entertaining parties etc. ring no text 07504685036

MEERKAT BOOKS Brand new hardback asst titles volume of 6 books £15 great for collector ring only no texts 07504685036

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TV STAND black glass, chrome legs, 28in wide, 20in height, 18in depth, good condition £5 01704 876855

DOUBLE FUTON large, black with matching cushions, excellent condition, £80 for quick sale, collection only 07443 653169

COFFEE TABLE Chinese lacquered antique glass top £250. Shower cubicle and full shower unit £200 ono 07480 433459

UPHOLSTERED TUB CHAIRS x 2, natural colour, good condition, mahogany legs, antique castors £85 the pair 01704 579251

SINGLE BED metal frame with desk underneath, excellent condition, bargain £50 07926 074940

AH MCINTOSH Danish teak round extending table and 4 chairs, excellent condition £220 01704 576052

CURTAINS 2 pairs fully lined cream, 60"w 82"d & 120"w 82"d with hold backs and brass poles £20 01704 821597

FRAMED PRINT Limited Edition No. 40 print of France by HRH The Prince of Wales, size 24x18, £40 01704 506539

HOTPOINT under counter freezer, good condition, 3 drawers, clean, 55cm W 60cm D 85cm H 01704 878805

TV UNIT black glass with two shelves H50 W100 D45cm hardly used immaculate condition bargain £35 07935641474

FRIDGE FREEZER BEC 54"x 22" white in good condition, buyer to collect in Southport £45 01704877612

ETERNAL BEAU Teapot £10. Set of 6 teacups & saucers £10. Excellent condition. 07856769100

TWO SEATER Fix snuggle settee, six months old, buyer collects £250 01704 214809

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MISC

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SPORTS EQUIPMENT

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SPORTS EQUIPMENT

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DEATHS

HAMER MADELENE

1st August 2017

Peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family

Aged 66 years

Loving Wife of the late Kenneth Joseph Hamer, devoted Mum of Marta, Caroline, Nicola and Mark, cherished Nan of Dale, Nathan, Macey, Sofia, and Isaac, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Friday 11th August at 10:30am. Family flowers only please by request donations if desired for the Marina Dalglish Centre Aintree. Enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

ZIMAK ALEXANDR (Alex)

August 1st 2017

Aged 91 years

Much loved Husband of Kathleen. Alex will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service at all Saints with St Frideswyde Church Crosby L23 9TQ on Thursday August 17th 2017 at 11am followed by Private Cremation family flowers on please but if desired donations to ward 2 Aintree University Hospital or Domov Sue Ryder (Prague) C/o H.Leslie Humpreys 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE Tel: 0151 924 4805

DEATHS

LYNCH STEPHEN (Badge)

6th August 2017

Aged 65 Years

Much Loved Partner of Diane. Loved Brother of Gordon, Jimmy, Val, Sheila and Philip (Deceased). Service and Cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium Pippin Street Burscough on Wednesday 16th August at 2.30pm. Family Flowers only please but Donations if Desired for Leukaemia Fund c/o Graham J Clegg Funeral Service 7 Dover Road Maghull L31 5JB Tel 0151 520 3330 or via www.cleggfunerals.com

ELLIOTT BEN

1st August 2017

Aged 84 years

Loving Husband of Margot. Fun loving Dad of Jenny, Peter and Andrew, Father-In-Law to Cliff, Tess and Ria. Best ever Grandad to Lol, Joe and Beth, dear Brother of Jimmy. Ben will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 15th August at 11:30am. Donations in lieu of flowers are being gratefully received for Lewy Body Society. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086

SUMMERFIELD ALAN PETER

4th August 2017

Aged 93 years

Peacefully passed away

Dearly loved Husband of Eileen for 67 years. Much loved Father of Kathryn and Gillian, Father-in-law of Brian and Howard, Granpa of Nicholas and Sarah. A Gentleman and a gentle man who will be sadly missed. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 14th August at 10:40am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to the Royal British Legion. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

HEAP ROBERT

2nd August 2017

Peacefully at home

'A True Gentleman'

Dearly loved Husband of the late Lil, much loved Dad and Father-in-law of Robert, Hazel, Brenda and Phil. Devoted Granddad of Beverley, Colin, Gary (deceased), Alison and Jaclyn, dear Gramps of Lily, Sebastian, Ethan and Finley. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Service and cremation at Thornton Crematorium on Thursday August 17th at 1.20pm. Donations made to Sefton Helping Hand Services maybe sent c/o McCallum & Tritton & Sons, 46 Mersey View, Brighton-Le-Sands, L22 6QB. Tel: 0151-931-2002.

PLATT JEAN

Passed away peacefully at Highwray Nursing Home on 1st August 2017

Aged 91 years of Aughton

Much loved Mum of Gillian, John and Sally. Dearly loved Mother in law, Gran, Nana & Great Grandma. Loved and missed by all her family & friends. Funeral Service at Christ Church Aughton on Friday 11th August at 11.15am, followed by committal at West Lancs Crematorium. Family flowers only by request, but donations if so desired for The Alzheimer's Society or Great Ormond Street Childrens Hospital. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel 01695 424888

HORROCKS FLORENCE MAY

Died 2nd August 2017

Peacefully in High Wray Residential Home, Aughton

Aged 95 Years

The loving Wife of the late John and beloved Mum to her late daughter Linda. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 17th August 2017 at 10:40am. No flowers by request but Donations if so desired to High Wray Residential Home. John & Barbara would like to thank Janet, Tammy & all the staff at High Wray Residential Home for all the loving, caring & respectful way they have cared for May over the past 3 years. Thank you all. Donations and all further enquiries to Lisa Hunter, MLS Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, L39 5DZ. 01695 424888.

DEATHS

KENNEDY HANNAH

Passed away peacefully on the 30th July 2017

Aged 94

Dearly loved Wife of the late Tim. Loving Mum and Mother-in-law of Pat and Pete, Ian and Susan, Neil and Barbara, Alan and Susan and much loved Gran of Lisa, Emma and Sarah, Elizabeth and Timothy, Jill and Helen, Harriet and Eleanor and all her Great Grandchildren. Funeral Service and Interment at Ormskirk Parish Church on Wednesday 16th August 2017 at 12noon. Family flowers only. Donations to the British Heart Foundation. Further enquiries to Lisa Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Tele: 01695 424888.

BLEASDALE WILLIAM ALBERT (BILL)

Suddenly passed away on Wednesday 2nd August 2017

Aged 83 years of Aughton.

Beloved Husband of Eileen, Loving Father of Keith and Sharon, Father-in-law of Richard and Alison and Devoted Grandad of Olivia and Phoebe. Sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium, on Monday 14th August 2017 at 1.00 pm. Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for The British Heart Foundation. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Tele. 01695 424888.

HAWKINS PAULINE

On 3rd August 2017

Peacefully at

Avalon Care Home

with her family by her side

Aged 84 years

Dearly loved Wife of Jimmy, much loved Mum of Janice and Julie, dear Mother-In-Law of Geoff, and loving Nana of Ian, Joanna and Natalie. Funeral service and Committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 11th August at 12:40pm. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Alzheimer's Society. Donations and further enquiries please to M Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118

DEATHS

BECKETT GEORGE ROBERT

30th July 2017

Peacefully in hospital Aged 80 years of Ormskirk

The dearly loved Husband of the late Shirely, loving Dad of Julie and Philip, devoted Grandad of Emily, George, Chloe, Olivia, Thomas and Sophie and Great Grandad to Harry. Funeral Service at Burscough Methodist Church, today Wednesday 9th August 2017 at 12.30pm followed by interment at Burscough Parish Church. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the Parkinson's Society. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel:- 01695 722122 / 720012.

CORKILL COLETTE THERESE ('COL')

3rd August 2017

Aged 93 years

Much loved by many. Sister to Margaret, Peter, Joseph, Brenda and John. Loving Aunt, Great-Aunt and good friend. Funeral service to be held at 12.00 noon on Thursday 10th August 2017 at St Anne's Church, Ormskirk, followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium. All enquiries via Craven Funeral Directors, 16a Derby Street West, Ormskirk, L39 3NH. Tel: 01695 577200.

To book your FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS call 01704 392 392 adverts.champnews.com

CAREY VAL

Loved by Husband Tom and Sons Peter and Neil and everybody who knew her. Passed away at home 27th July 2017. Service at Burscough Cramatorium 2.30pm Friday 11th August. Flowers not required donate to your favourite Charity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PROTHEROE KATHY (KATHLEEN)

The family of the late Kathy Protheroe would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations to The Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital (LHCH) received during their recent sad loss of a much loved Wife, Mum, Grandmother and Friend. Special thanks to Kathy's oldest school friends (and bridesmaids) who travelled/flew many miles to be there. Thanks also to John Milton for his kind words of comfort and the team at MLS for their support and their dignified funeral arrangements. Any further donations can be made to LHCH via MLS Independent Funeral Directors.

OWEN GRACE

The Family of the late Grace Owen would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their messages of condolence sympathy cards and donations for M.E. Association (Myalgic Encephalopathy) received during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to everyone who attended the Funeral Service, Rev. Andrew Housley for his kind words of comfort and The Team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements.

NEWLAND JANET

The family of Janet would like to thank all who attended the funeral, also for the many cards, kind words and donations. Thank you to Canon Mike Smout for a caring service, also Hurlston Hall Golf Club for their warmth and hospitality. A special thank you to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors for their support and professionalism throughout.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SEPHTON DOROTHY

The family of the late Dorothy Sephton wish to express their sincere thanks to everyone for the kindness & sympathy shown during their recent bereavement. Also for their kind and generous donations to Queenscourt Hospice. Thanks also to Father Paul Hutchins and Porters Funeralcare.

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IN MEMORIAM

COOKE SYLVIA (NEE KERFOOT)

12th August 2016

To Mum, we miss you every day Sylvia, it never stops hurting, but nothing like what you went through. I always sit in our garden as it eases the pain, and quietly watch the birds circling in flight. I know we miss each other every day. From Loving Husband John and Son Stephen xx

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BROOKFIELD LANE, AUGHTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Brookfield Lane, Aughton from the Junction of Butchers Lane for approximately 35 metres to outside property no 100 Brookfield Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0900 hours on 14/08/2017 until 1700 hours on 13/10/2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Butchers Lane – Springfield Road – Smithy Lane – Brookfield Lane and vice versa. The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow utilities works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/8660/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2017/0756/OUT Outline - Relocation of golf driving range, construction of holiday homes, floating holiday homes, static caravan pitches, golf club house and all associated car parks, roadways, footpaths, and cycle trials, and formation of new woodland areas, served by existing access from The Gravel (including details of access) at Leisure Lakes, The Gravel, Mere Brow, Tarleton.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.
Application No: 2017/0763/FUL Erection of three detached dwelling houses including two detached garages to Plots 2 and 3 (Amendment to previously approved planning application 2016/1319/FUL) at Land To The Rear Of 29, The Gravel, Mere Brow, Tarleton.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2017/0614/COU Change of use of equestrian barn into one single storey dwelling for residential use at 6 Top Locks, Wheat Lane, Lathom.
Application No: 2017/0759/FUL Single storey rear extension and detached garage at 28 Tan House Lane, Parbold.
Application No: 2017/0768/FUL Variation of Condition No. 2 of planning permission 2016/1292/FUL to vary the approved plans at Site Of Former South Springs, St Michael Road, Aughton.
Application No: 2017/0788/FUL Removal of existing glasshouse. Erection of replacement timber and single glazed glasshouse at 47 Granville Park, Aughton.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 9th August 2017
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT960

WANTED

PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(POOL HEY LANE (LC), SCARISBRICK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle, cycle or pedestrian to proceed over that length of Pool Hey Lane (LC) from a point 20 metres either side of the level crossing.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 2200 hours on 21/08/2017 until 0800 hours on 22/08/2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- A570 Southport Road – Snape Green – Wyke Cop Road – Wyke Lane and vice versa. The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow Level Crossing Maintenance works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/7921/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(POPPY LANE, BICKERSTAFFE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle to proceed over that length of Poppy Lane, Bickerstaffe from a point 90 metres south west of a property called Willow Brook to its junction with Croppers Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0900 hours on 16/08/2017 until 1700 hours on 23/08/2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Poppy Lane – Scarth Hill Lane – Long Lane – Croppers Lane – Poppy Lane and vice versa. The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow utilities works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/8061/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(MOSS LANE, HESKETH BANK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Moss lane, Hesketh Bank from outside property number 407 to outside property number 429.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours on 21/08/2017 until 1700 hours on 29/08/2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Moss Lane – Station Road – Shore Road – Hundred End Lane – Taylors Meanygate – Moss Lane and vice versa
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow utilities works to be carried out. Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/6843/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(SLUICE LANE, RUFFORD, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Sluice Lane, Rufford from its Junction with New Lane for approximately 20 metres in an easterly direction.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 2100 hours until 0600 hours on 14/08/2017 until 18/08/2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- No diversion is required.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow utilities works to be carried out. Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/8238/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(SMITHY LANE, SCARISBRICK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Smithy Lane, Scarisbrick from its Junction with Southport Road to its junction with Moorfield Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0830 hours on 21/08/2017 until 1700 hours on 25/08/2017 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Smithy Lane – A570 Southport Road – Bescar Brow Lane – Hall Road – Dam Wood Lane – Heatons Bridge Road – Smithy Lane and vice versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow utility works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/8752/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 15 PUBLICATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
PLANNING APPLICATION NO - LCC/2017/0064
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT - VARIATION OF CONDITION 1 OF PERMISSION LCC/2017/0016 TO ALLOW WORKS TO PLUG AND ABANDON THE BOREHOLE AND TO RESTORE THE SITE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONDITION 17 OF PERMISSION LCC/2017/0016 TO BE UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN 01 APRIL 2018 AND 31 OCTOBER 2018. AT BECCONSALL EXPLORATION SITE, OFF BONNY BARN ROAD, HUNDRED END, BANKS
I give notice that Cuadrilla Resources Ltd is applying to the Lancashire County Council for the above development. Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, plans and documents at Lancashire County Council, Development Management Group, County Hall, PO Box 100, Preston, PR1 0LD or at the Planning Department, West Lancashire Borough Council, Council Offices, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, during normal office hours until 30 August 2017.The application can also be viewed on the County Council's website **planningregister.lancashire.gov.uk**
Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the County Council by 30 August 2017 at the above address, via email DevCon@lancashire.gov.uk or via 'Have your Say' on the County Council's website. Information regarding the decision will be available on the website within 5 working days of the decision.
Details on how to speak at the Development Control Committee are also available on the web page Andy Mullaney, Head of Service for Planning and Environment On Behalf of Lancashire County Council
Date: 9 August 2017

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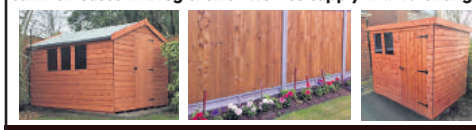

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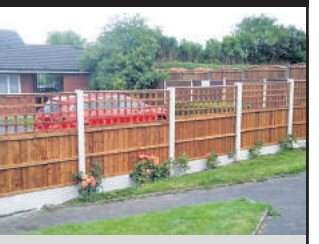

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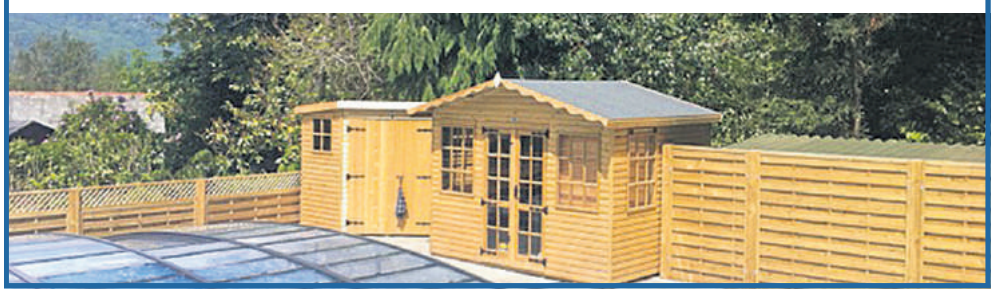

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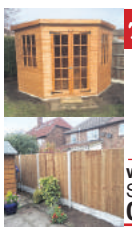

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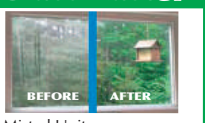

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Visiting Capri - the sun-kissed island in the Med, not the Ford!

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It seems that the residents of Capri haven't taken to the car named after their island.

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CAPRI. Sideways urban streetfighter, Seventies touring car hero, star of *The Professionals*, the car you always promised yourself, and today's hot topic when it comes to classic car prices.

Oh, and it's a sun-kissed island in the Mediterranean, which I ended up exploring the other day. Given Ford's coupe was made right here in the North West for much of its life – and if you don't remember growing up with it, you'll almost certainly know someone who does – it seemed rude not to take up an opportunity to look around the place that lent its name to Europe's answer to the Ford Mustang.

Obviously as the ferry lumbered into the dock I was excitedly expecting a pristine Capri RS3100 mounted on a plinth to greet visitors, reminding anyone embarking upon this beautiful island of its historic connection to one of Europe's greatest cars. But there wasn't. There wasn't even a shiny 280 Brooklands – the name given to the last Capris, which are hugely valuable these days – in a glass case to highlight Capri's connection to the Capri, or even a rental firm based in the town centre chucking tourists the keys to a slightly tatty 1.6 Laser. There are a couple of museums on the island but they're all dedicated to Roman artefacts, the various things that grow nearby and the works of the various artists and poets who lived there, but the car named after it warrants barely a footnote.

I'd suggest finding one of the few Capris that isn't worth £20,000 and sending it over as a permanent tribute to the island's contribution to motoring history, but it appears you aren't even allowed to do that. You're not allowed to take cars onto Capri during the summer months, unless you're a resident who already owns one. Guess what? None of them have a Ford Capri. But despite not offering the eponymous car a single mention there are a few things worth heading over for, if you ever end up holidaying in this stiflingly hot part of Italy. The residents-only rule mean that while there aren't many cars a fairly high proportion of them are Fiat 500s (of the proper variety, not the modern hatchback).

Then there's the endless two-stroke clatter of people wobbling around on Vespa scooters, but the best thing of all are what they use for taxis. You'd probably forgotten the Fiat Marea exists but the people of Capri haven't; they've stretched it, chopped the roof off, and fitted it with a wooden steering wheel, red leather seats and orange door handles.

Even on an island surprisingly lacking in Fords that's worth the ferry ticket alone.

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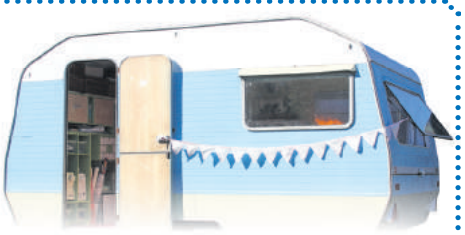

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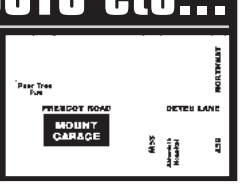

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Van Niekerk takes five wickets for six runs as Burscough skittle out Wigan for just 49

BURSCOUGH romped to a ten wicket home win in the First Division over Wigan.

The visitors were asked to bat and inexplicably slipped from 41-1 to 49 all out with the last eight batsmen scoring just 8 runs between them, as Ben Van Niekerk 5-6 and Chris Andrews 4-22 went through them like a dose of salt. In reply, Andrews (19*) and Ryan Hughes (25*) sealed victory on 52-0.

Skelmersdale suffered an 85 run defeat at Birkenhead Park.

Aqib Nawaz took 6 wickets for 73 and Jack Maddocks f4-59 to limit Birkenhead to 202 all out.

But Skelmersdale could only manage 117 all out in reply.

Fleetwood Hesketh sit just above the drop zone after a 134 run defeat at Newton le Willows.

The hosts were asked to bat and declared on 265-4, thanks to centuries from Muhammad Iqbal (117 inc 13x4 & 1x6) and James Smith (111 in 15x4).

In reply, Lee Bolton top scored for Fleetwood as they were dismissed for 131, with Dom Chambers 4-37 and Steve Appleton 3-10 doing most of the damage with the ball.

In the Second Division Maghull failed to close the gap on the top two after a four wicket home defeat against Alder, Paul McKenna and Greg Gillespie both hit 41 and Liam Crilly and William Mashinge both made 32 as Maghull posted 210 on the board, with Zahid Mohammed 4-51 and Inderdip Singh 3-41 taking the bowling honours. In reply, Kamran Hussain hit an unbeaten 76 and Zahid 52 to help Alder to victory on 214-6, with Declan Devine taking 3-51.

Bowlers shine as Ormskirk march on in National Cup

ORMSKIRK secured a home quarter final tie against Hanging Heaton CC in the ECB National Club Championship after beating York on Sunday.

Batting first Ormskirk scored 141 all out in 41.5 overs with opener Andrew Baybutt top scoring with 37.

They then dismissed York for 108 with Tom Hartley the pick of the bowlers taking four wickets for 16 runs while Jamie Barnes took 3-18.

The day before though Ormskirk suffered just their second Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division defeat of the season as they were beaten by four wickets at home against Wallasey.

Ormskirk were asked to bat and declared on 223-7, with Michael Jones (82), John Armstrong (71) and Nick Caunce (40*) in good touch against a bowling attack led by former England spinner Monty Panesar who took 5-81

In reply, the visitors recovered from 3-3 to seal victory on 225-6 thanks to an unbeaten century partnership from Alex Eagles (112*) and Andy Ward (69*).

Fifth placed Bootle were batted out of a drawn game at Colwyn Bay, the hosts were asked to bat first and piled up 290-6 dec, thanks to centuries from Buddhika (107) and Higginson (110*). In reply, Danny Davies (60) and a defiant unbeaten 56 from Lancashire's Luke Procter helped Bootle secure a draw on 152-8, with Goodson taking 4-38.

Southport & Birkdale moved out of the relegation zone with a seven wicket win at Formby who now replace them in the bottom two.

Formby chose to bat, with Sam Oldham (52) and Tom Simpson (33) scoring the bulk of the runs, whilst some incredible catches and Angus Gailey's 3-31 were the highlights for S&B. In reply, wicket-keeper batsman Brad Yates carried his bat with an unbeaten 84* and Tearon Gleeson finished unbeaten on 16 as the visitors cruised to victory on 146-3.

Ainsdale remain at the foot of the table after an eight wicket defeat at Leigh.

Northern lost by five wickets at Rainhill, after an unbeaten 84* from Ross Higham, 48* from Paul Ford, 45 from Tyler McGladdery and 36 from Sam Kershaw led the hosts to 236-5 dec off 55 overs

In reply, Akshay Darekar took his season's wicket tally to 75 with 8-57 as Northern were dismissed for 133, with Shivaum Bapu top scoring with 32.

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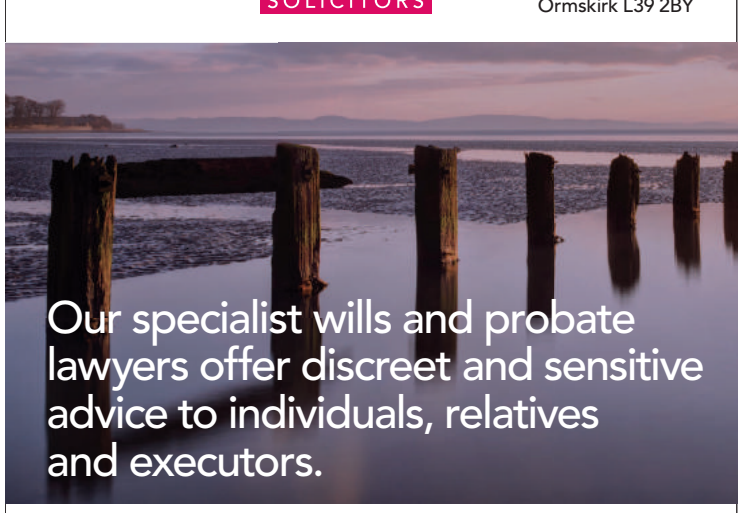

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Linnets start season with comfortable FA Cup victory

Emley 0
Burscough 3

BURSCOUGH gave their season an early boost with a comfortable win in the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

It is the first time in around 20 years that they have competed in the round and they got off to a flying start with a goal after five minutes.

A long throw-in from the right brought chaos to the Emley backline and Peter Henerty punished the home defence in the best way possible.

Soon afterwards Burscough saw a header hit the home crossbar and Henerty fired a shot over the top as the Linnets sought to press home their advantage.

In the 18th minute the Burscough pressure got its reward. Right-Back Josh Dunroe, who made a good impression all afternoon pushed a free kick through the Emley defence, Derek Szanto latched onto it and the Burscough number five coolly slotted home to make it 2-0.

Despite further Burscough offensive play it was Emley who almost pulled a goal back, but Thabiso Magida wasted what was arguably the best chance of the afternoon at the far post.

Derek Szanto celebrates scoring Burscough's second goal. Picture by Emley FC.

Matters evened up towards the interval but there was no doubting Burscough had been the better team as the teams went back to the dressing room.

For the second-half, Emley made changes but it was Burscough who soon went close, Liam Diggle being denied.

Burscough were now able to sit back and play counterattack football and they held Emley well, the nearest worry was an Aaron Joseph header that went wide.

The game was finally up for Emley when they had left sided defender Mike Starkey sent off for a second yellow card. Then six minutes from time the end for Emley was rubber-stamped when home goalkeeper Paul Day couldn't hold onto a Henerty shot and Jake Connelly forced home the rebound.

Emley had a couple of late flurries but it was Burscough's day.

They will have another cup repeat from the past in the next round when they travel to Radcliffe Borough on Saturday, August 19.

Well travelled striker Brodie joins Skem

IT'S a big week ahead for Skelmersdale United with the Evo-Stik League fixtures set to kick off on Saturday.

Skem begin the campaign with a trip over the Pennines to Brighouse Town before they entertain old foes Trafford at home on Tuesday, August 15.

Skem will start with confidence after a draw and two victories from their final three friendly matches, culminating in a convincing 3-0 win at home to Gresley last Saturday.

The Gresley match was all over bar the shouting after only 18 minutes, as by then Alan Roger's side were already 3-0 up and but for the exit due to injury of centre-forward Andy Owens in the 27th minute, it could be said that it would have been a much bigger win.

Owens' free-kick brought the opener in the seventh minute. The Gresley goalkeeper couldn't hold the ball leaving new signing Richard Brodie to steer home the rebound.

Owens himself netted the second goal on 11 minutes, rising above everyone to head home a sweeping free-kick from new signing Kevin Cringle.

He saved his best until last in the 18th minute. Picking the ball up just over the halfway line he looked up and saw the Gresley keeper off his line.

He then lifted the ball over the keeper into the net from at least 45 yards, for a goal that will be difficult to better all the new season.

Owens limped off in the 27th minute.

Over the last week they have made four more signings.

The previously mentioned Cringle has joined from Tranmere Rovers. Jonathan Crane is another who has joined and displayed a couple of good showings against both Bootle and Gresley this to stake his claims.

Another that did similarly was central defender Callum Jones who also signed this week.

The big news though was the signing of striker Richard Brodie - a big man with a big reputation and a big record for scoring goals. The 30 year old scored over 50 goals with York City before leading Crawley Town into the Football League.

His clubs since then have included Fleetwood Town, , Stockport County and three spells with Southport

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